Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-153
Wednesday
11 August 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-153 11 August 1993

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Palestinian Affairs

Delegates Agree To Leave Jerusalem to Final Phase

NC1008203293 Paris AFP in English 1947 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, Aug 10 (AFP)—The PLO and delegates to Middle East peace talks have agreed to postpone raising the thorny issue of Jerusalem despite an earlier row that prompted the negotiators' resignation, Palestinian sources said here Tuesday [11 August].

A source close to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the status of Jerusalem—a major bone of contention between the leadership and three Palestinian negotiators—would be discussed in the final stages of the talks with Israel and that the decision had been agreed upon before the Madrid peace conference of October 1991 that launched the entire peace process.

"The Palestine Liberation Organization, by donning the cap of pragmatism, wants to give Israel no alternative but to negotiate with it and we figure that most people in the Israeli government as well as in the country are today ripe for such a step," the source said.

His comments came after Nabil Qassis, deputy head of the delegation, said 'Arafat had hammered out a deal under which the three leaders of his Middle East peace delegation withdrew their resignations, thereby defusing an unprecedented internal crisis.

The trio from the occupied territories resigned at PLO headquarters here on Sunday to protest what they considered 'Arafat's new moderate stance in a policy document for negotiating interim autonomy from Israel.

But delegation leader Faysal al-Husayni, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi and another deputy, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, had won assurances that they would not be left in the dark in the future and withdrew their resignations.

Deep divisions opened up between 'Arafat and the delegates from the territories over the policy document presented to the Americans last week in which the PLO agreed to set aside the question of East Jerusalem for several years.

The delegates insist it must be included in any area of Palestinian autonomy.

Sources close to 'Arafat however insisted that the differences between the PLO and the negotiators were strictly "procedural."

"Behind every cloud there's a silver lining," a PLO official told AFP, insisting that the crisis would soon be resolved.

The central committee of al-Fatah, 'Arafat's wing of the PLO, was to debate the issues late Tuesday in meetings expected to last no later than Wednesday, when the organization's executive committee will issue a final policy statement on negotiating guidelines with Israel.

"The PLO leadership has renewed its complete confidence in the Palestinian delegates and established with them operational plans for the coming stages of the negotiations with Israel which will be crucial," the PLO representative in Amman, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, told AFP.

Palestinian sources said al-Husayni, 'Urayqat and 'Ashrawi blamed the PLO leadership in Tunis for issuing contradictory instructions and for lack of coordination with the delegation.

A Palestinian official in Amman said al-Husayni also briefed the PLO on the impact of the financial crisis in the occupied territories caused by a cut in subsidies from the organization to the territories following a suspension of aid from Arab Gulf states after the war that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in 1991.

Al-Husayni noted that employees of Palestinian organizations in the territories, notably hospitals and universities, had not been paid in three months, the official said.

According to the delegates, the financial crisis constitutes indirect pressure from the United States to push the Palestinian into accepting the stepped-up transfer of power in the occupied territories.

PLO Official: Delegates, Sha'th To Retain Positions

TA1008152093 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with 'Imad Shaqqur, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Israeli affairs, by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Text] [Segal] The PLO Executive Committee is currently meeting in Tunis to discuss the crisis that erupted in the wake of the threat of the Palestinian delegates from the territories to quit and stop taking part in the negotiations with Israel. On the phone from Tunis is 'Imad Shaqqur, adviser to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat for Israeli affairs. The phone patch has been arranged through Solan Communications. Good evening, Mr. Shaqqur.

[Shaqqur] Good evening.

[Segal] What is happening now in Tunis?

[Shaqqur] There are discussions on the situation and the peace process and all Palestinian issues, such as relations within the PLO, with the Arab world, and with other countries in the world.

[Segal] Are you near the hall where the PLO Executive Committee is holding its discussions?

[Shaqqur] I am in Tunis.

[Segal] Near the hall where the discussions are being held?

[Shaqqur] Not exactly near, but in regular contact.

[Segal] What decision is about to be made in Tunis?

[Shaqqur] As I told you, they are discussing the situation, the peace process, the results of the U.S. secretary of state's visit, the situation within the PLO Executive Committee—all the Palestinian issues.

[Segal] Will Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Mr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat continue to be the representatives of the Palestinians in the peace talks?

[Shaqqur] Yes, they are going ahead with their work.

[Segal] Does that mean that in the wake of the crisis, in the wake of their threat to quit, they will be given more powers than they had before?

[Shaqqur] The Palestinian people have the Palestine National Council [PNC] which elected the PLO Executive Committee led by Mr. 'Arafat—this is the Palestinian leadership. All others do their job in accordance with the policies set by the PNC.

[Segal] When the talks resume in Washington in September, who will sit around the table—Nabil Sha'th or Faysal al-Husayni?

[Shaqqur] Nabil Sha'th will remain in his position.

[Segal] Will Nabil Sha'th or Faysal al-Husayni sit at the table?

[Shaqqur] Sha'th will not sit at the negotiating table, but he will lead the entire Palestinian group.

[Segal] And the others will continue to be representatives in the negotiations.

[Shaqqur] Exactly.

[Segal] Does the fact that they will continue to be representatives mean that they will espouse a more extreme position? From what we have been hearing, the PLO in Tunis holds a more moderate position.

[Shaqqur] That is what you heard, but the others over here and I think that the main job of the leadership is to lead. It seems to me this is the first time we see a real chance for Israeli concessions. It is the duty of our people not to miss this opportunity and not to allow Israel to get away from a reality that is leading the entire Middle East toward peace for the good of the Palestinian people. This process cannot be stopped. It would not be to our benefit, and we will not allow that to happen.

[Segal] Mr. Shaqqur, thank you.

'Arafat Reportedly Threatened To Fire Delegates

TA1108112793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Aug 93 p 5

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Excerpt] The three senior members of the Palestinian delegation: Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat—have recalled their threat to resign. After a series of meetings with 'Arafat and leading PLO officials, the delegates were warned that if they continued to demand a free hand in the negotiations, they would be publicly dismissed in a humiliating fashion.

According to Palestinian sources, 'Arafat invited to Tunis delegation members, who were supposed to take the places of al- Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and 'Urayqat. According to the sources, 'Arafat intended to appoint Dr. Sari Nusaybah head of the delegation, and Furayh Abu-Middyan and Zakariya al-Agha from Gaza as senior delegation members. In return, PLO officials promised a greater say for the senior Palestinian delegates in the negotiations' decisionmaking process.

A Palestinian source close to the PLO leadership yesterday said that the events of the recent days in Tunis have proven that it is still dangerous to anger 'Arafat, even when he is not at his strongest. The source added that this time 'Arafat had settled for twisting the delegates' arm, but if they continued to flex their muscles against the leadership in Tunis, "'Arafat would break their arm in two."

A senior Palestinian source reported that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi, the head of the delegation, emerged stronger from the crisis, after his colleagues, who threatened to resign, "did his dirty work for him," while he himself did not engage in a direct confrontation with 'Arafat and the PLO leadership. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif on Leadership's Meetings With Delegates

JN1108110093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio, carried within the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, what is the latest on the resignation or otherwise of Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat?

[Abu-Sharif] I have said recently that the Palestinian negotiating delegation came to Tunis and presented a report on their talks with Mr. Warren Christopher and that this report is being evaluated by the leadership with the participation of the negotiating delegation. Meetings continued last night to evaluate this issue. Today, the leadership will meet to discuss steps for the upcoming political moves.

[Mu'addi] The PLO Executive Committee held intensive meetings with the members of the [negotiating] Palestinian side. What proposals and options were discussed during these meetings?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO Executive Committee and the leadership members' meeting with the negotiating delegation was aimed at reaching a joint evaluation of what was discussed with Mr. Warren Christopher. I can say that the general opinion is that the ball now is in the court of the U.S. Administration, now that the Palestinian delegation has presented its memo to Warren Christopher, so that the Administration can implement what it had pledged in terms of pushing the peace process forward and transferring power to a provisional Palestinian self-government. At the same time, I can say that the Israeli Government is required to make a move to implement its promises to carry out the transitional phase.

[Mu'addi] There have been conflicting reports in the territories about the resignation or nonresignation of al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and 'Urayqat. Let us know the facts and fill the gaps in these reports.

[Abu-Sharif] There are no resignations. A report was presented on contacts with Warren Christopher and this report was evaluated. Today, meetings will continue to draw up the future plan of action.

[Mu'addi] Reports from Tunis say that Faysal al-Husayni has explained to the Executive Committee meetings the economic problems facing the establishments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Does this indicate, at the current stage, criticism of the PLO leadership?

[Abu-Sharif] In fact, in addition to evaluating the talks with Mr. Warren Christopher, the leadership and the Palestinian delegation discussed all the problems facing our Palestinian people under occupation. The economic hardships our people are facing is known and has known reasons, the foremost of which is the closure of the territories and Jerusalem. It is natural for the PLO to make efforts with the Arab countries and other international parties to work out a program for economic development in the occupied territories, particularly in light of the approaching transitional stage.

[Mu'addi] What is your comment on the U.S. call for convening the next round of talks late this month or early next month? Do you think that the Palestinian side will participate in the next round?

[Abu-Sharif] Immediately following the Palestinian meetings here, arrangements will be made for an Arab meeting that includes the parties concerned with the peace process at the foreign minister level to discuss this subject and coordinate a unified decision on the date of the next round?

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th emphasized two days ago that Israel is about to recognize the PLO and start direct negotiations with it. Do you have information on this subject?

[Abu-Sharif] I have already said that now there is no logical reason obstructing such a step. According to our information, the majority of the present Israeli Government ministers support such a step. I believe Yitzhaq Rabin is now aware of this fact. Undoubtedly, the Israeli Government, or members of the Israeli Government, will work in this direction when Yitzhaq Rabin gives the green light. I believe that time is ripe for such a meeting due to the importance it will have in terms of advancing the peace process.

[Mu'addi] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, thank you very much.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

Qaddumi Discusses PLO-Delegation Coordination

NC1008204693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi by correspondent Imad 'Abd-al-Tawwab, in the "Talking Newspaper" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Tawwab] Mr. Faruq, welcome.

[Qaddumi] Thank you.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] What are the facts concerning the current reports about Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi's resignation?

[Qaddumi] The negative developments that surfaced during the negotiations, particularly Israel's intransigent stance and the U.S. backing of this stance, have angered the masses. After more than 20 months, the negotiations have made no progress. This protest by some members of the negotiating delegation was interpreted by numerous journalistic circles as being resignations. Actually it was not that, but a rejection of the Israeli and U.S. negotiating methods.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] So it was a mere protest, not a resignation.

[Qaddumi] Yes. It was also a declaration that if the negotiations continue in the same way, they will yield no results.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] We have always noted a high degree of coordination between the negotiating delegation and the PLO. Can you throw some light on the current meeting in Tunis and its importance at this particular time?

[Qaddumi] Hostile media intentionally give the impression that the delegation and the PLO are two different parties. Actually, the delegation is the PLO's delegation. Some people try to misrepresent the status of the delegation which links it to the Palestinian public and the PLO

by saying that negotiations should be conducted with the PLO. Every Palestinian individual is a PLO member. We must not say they are outside the PLO, whether the United States and Israel like this description or not. Hence, the current consultations are normal. We, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt have insisted on not holding continuous negotiations and have demanded separate rounds, with intervals between them for the sake of coordination among the Arabs. The current process is one of comprehensive assessment following 10 rounds of negotiations which have made no progress at all.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Mr. Qaddumi, I would like you to tell me about the Palestinian position and demands.

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian demands are clear. At first we agreed to a transitional stage, meaning a full transfer of power during the first year of this stage and elections held under UN supervision. Israel, however, is prevaricating. It does not actually want to acknowledge that UN Security Council Resolution 242 must be fully implemented in connection with the Palestinian track of negotiations and uses many excuses in order to avoid its implementation. For example, it holds that the implementation should not be carried out before the final stage. First of all, Palestinian self-government should have authority from the first year. This was a condition that was stressed by James Baker prior to the Madrid conference and at the beginning of the negotiations. Second, Jerusalem is a basic and a core issue to us. We might discuss the details on the Jerusalem issue at a later stage but the issue itself must remain a main item on the agenda of the talks. Another issue is that of the Palestinian self-government's geographical jurisdiction. It must include all the territories that Israel occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. This is the area over which the Palestinian authority must have jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over water resources, the land, and other resources.

Resignations Mirror Rejection of Israeli Policy

NC1008185593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the final position of Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan 'Ashrawi is natural, reflecting the Palestinian rejection of the way Israel deals with the peace negotiations.

In statements to Cairo Radio's central news unit today, Qaddumi said that most media circles have misinterpreted the stand of the three Palestinian leaders as being a resignation. The stand is in fact a protest against the negative aspects of the intransigent Israeli position toward the peace negotiations.

Qaddumi said: It was, therefore, natural that negotiations be held continuously between the PLO and the delegation's members, who indeed represent the PLO and the Palestinian people. He called on the international community, particularly the United Nations, to make every effort to achieve tangible progress in the Middle East peace process because the past 10 rounds of talks have so far failed to achieve any tangible progress.

PLO Envoy: Matters Sorted Out After Meetings

JN1008182993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] The Palestinian ambassador in Amman, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, told our radio that matters have been completely sorted out between the members of the negotiating Palestinian delegation and the PLO leadership in Tunis.

'Abd-al-Rahim said differences over the working mechanism are over. The two sides have drawn up plans to organize this mechanism to face the coming phase, which he described as very serious. He noted that the negotiators submitted their resignations in earnest, but the leadership rejected them and renewed its full trust in the delegation in order to continue the march toward the cherished peace.

On another level, Palestinian sources say delegation chief Faysal al-Husayni and the Tunis PLO leadership reviewed problems confronting the delegation members in the occupied territories, especially the financial crunch afflicting Palestinian establishments where college and hospital employees have not received salaries for the past three months. The sources cited the negotiators as voicing their conviction that Washington is behind this financial crunch in an effort to reach an early solution on the transfer of power in the occupied territories on U.S. terms. The sources say that with the exception of Jordan, which is paying the salaries of the awqaf [Islamic endowments] employees, and Qatar, which has recently paid $1 million, no aid of any kind has been received in the territories.

Jordan's King Husayn has received a call from Yasir 'Arafat in which the latter assured him that matters had been settled with the members of the negotiating delegation.

Negotiating Delegation Member Warns of 'Catastrophe'

TA1008182093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 2

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Excerpts] Ramallah—Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has stressed that the crisis that the Palestinians are now facing is not limited to the negotiating track but goes beyond this. He warned that dealing with this crisis rashly might lead to the brink.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, al-'Akir emphasized that the Palestinian people are now facing a

dangerous stage in terms of their destiny. This requires that a fundamental discussion of the Palestinian situation not be deferred. He said: It is no longer possible to wait and postpone. Everyone must shoulder the historic tasks and responsibilities with candor and realism. Continuing to ignore the crisis will lead to a Palestinian catastrophe.

Al-'Akir expressed the belief that the Palestinian people have the capability to create the mechanism that enables them to fulfill the historic role entrusted to them.

Referring to the intensive pressure from which the Palestinians are suffering, al-'Akir said that the United States and other Arab parties must realize that the result will be an aggravation, if not an explosion, of the Palestinian situation. He stressed that this pressure serves neither the negotiating nor peace process. [passage omitted]

Al-'Akir ruled out the possibility of continuing the negotiations in any form before the internal situation is rearranged and the Palestinian people's ranks inside and outside the occupied territories are reunited. He said: Unless we act fast to solve the crisis, no one can predict what will happen.

PLO Official Discusses Need for Collective Leadership

NC1008191593 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Sulayman al-Najjab, member of PLO Executive Committee, by Antoine 'Awn; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Najjab] The head of the delegation, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, has already explained that he has not received any messages demanding or rescinding resignations from Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat. I believe that the whole issue is not serious and does not deserve this huge media uproar.

['Awn] Is this an official PLO stand?

[Al-Najjab] Yes.

['Awn] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has ruled out the idea that the dispute was caused by the issue of amendments to the Palestinian paper. He talked about the wrong ways pursued by the leadership and about several channels dealing with the negotiations file. What is your comment?

[Al-Najjab] First of all, this is true. In other words, there is not a political dispute between the three members and brother Yasir 'Arafat on how to deal with the U.S. document of principles. As regards the method of action, some gaps and shortcomings emerged during the last negotiating period, which lasted more than 20 months. There have been demands to overcome these gaps and shortcomings and to improve performance. These demands are sound and necessary.

['Awn] Is the PLO ready to accept a collective leadership that follows a democratic basis, as requested by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi?

[Al-Najjab] The PLO's methods of action need to be developed, particularly since the role of the Palestinian national struggle and the Palestinian political movement inside the occupied territories has been increased. The issue needs a method of action and a collective leadership that would agree on increasing interaction and integration between those inside and outside the occupied land. This would serve the cause and rights of the Palestinian people.

['Awn] Mr. Sulayman al-Najjab, can al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and 'Urayqat leave Tunis any time they like, or is there a pressing need for them to stay? And why they don't talk to the media?

[Al-Najjab] Of course they can leave Tunis anytime. Their presence and the presence of the other Palestinian delegation members and a number of Palestinian leaders in Tunis is to review and assess what has been achieved in the last stage and to draw up plans for future action. But why they don't talk to the media, this question should be addressed to those concerned.

['Awn] Thank you.

Negotiator Says Resignations 'Blown Up' by Media

NC1108054393 London MBC Television in Arabic 2105 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the negotiating delegation, in Tunis by Antoine 'Awn in London on 10 August—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Khatib] The first meeting in the series of meetings the PLO leadership called for will be held tonight. We arrived [in Tunis] late last night, and we will hold the first meeting today. There are two points on the agenda for tonight's meeting. The first point is the political situation, and in particular, evaluating the results of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's visit, evaluating all the deliberations between him and the Palestinian delegation, and attempting to set the basis for future Palestinian political action. The second point is Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's call for democratic reforms and remedying some of the shortcomings of political action and national relations.

['Awn] Dr. al-Khatib, did you find Mr. Yasir 'Arafat ready to respond to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's demands?

[Al-Khatib] In principle, yes. There is a positive atmosphere and understanding for the need for such developments and reforms. There is a general feeling that there is a need for such reforms by both the delegation and the leadership.

['Awn] The PLO announced this evening through Sulayman al-Najjab that the subject of resignations is not

serious. Have any resignations been tendered? Have they been withdrawn? What is the truth?

[Al-Khatib] In actual fact, on the level of the delegation, no resignations have been handed in to the delegation or to its leadership. Deliberations and meetings took place before our arrival between the three delegates [Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan 'Ashrawi], on one hand, and the PLO leadership, on the other, during which, as far as we know, some remarks were made. As far as I know, discussions and negotiations are still going on, and so far no results have been achieved. However, I believe that the issue has been blown up by the media. There is no real crisis. Most likely, matters will be sorted out in the next few days.

PLO's Sha'th on Outcome of Christopher Trip

PM1108102493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 3

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Did the U.S. secretary of state's tour produce a new wording of the declaration of principles document on the Palestinian front?

[Sha'th] He submitted nothing new to us. Christopher came with the same concept which we rejected in the ninth and 10th rounds of negotiations. Palestinian rejection is based on the fact that U.S.-Israeli ideas are incompatible with what we believe is the authority as regards the issue of territory, Jerusalem, and geographical jurisdiction.

[Abu-Husayn] So what is the content of the new document that the Palestinian delegation submitted to Christopher?

[Sha'th] It can be said that the Palestinian delegation handed Christoph.r a document completely different from what is mentioned in the U.S. document. We asked that it be redrafted, because we have red lines that we cannot relinquish, namely that we understand the meaning of the land-for-peace principle in accordance with the concept defined by Egypt in its treaties with Israel, that is returning every inch of territory in return for peace measures in the future. We made this completely clear without any ambiguity or disparity. The idea of beginning disengagement in Gaza and Jericho was added. It is a clause of no consequence.

[Abu-Husayn] But this addition caused confusion between the Palestinian delegation and the PLO leadership.

[Sha'th] There was no confusion. All that happened was that the Palestinian delegation read the U.S. document a few hours before meeting with Christopher, so the delegation asked to be given two days to study it and prepare the right reply. In the end Christopher received the Palestinian document prepared by the PLO.

[Abu-Husayn] What is aim of proposing the idea of authority over Gaza and Jericho and disengagement, and will Israel agree to it?

[Sha'th] First of all, we submitted this offer to Israel through the U.S. partner but we have not yet received any reply. As for the idea itself, we believe that as a first phase the Israeli Army should withdraw completely from Gaza and Jericho without signing any agreements and pending negotiation over the other areas. It is a model similar to what happened in Suez, Kilometer 101, and the Israeli withdrawal from the west bank of the canal to the east bank, then the withdrawal inside [into Sinai]—which enabled Egypt to open the Suez Canal and return evacuees to their towns without Egypt's making any concessions or talking about peace or future relations. We want Israel to implement this on the Palestinian front, especially because it is the only front on which no disengagements have taken place since 1974. Thus it must withdraw from Gaza and Jericho, leaving a "passageway" or "corridor" between them to enable the Palestinian people to begin in practice the process of establishing a full Palestinian national authority without the presence of any Israeli forces.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, will the 11th round of negotiations discuss these details, and will it produce a declaration of principles?

[Sha'th] We are awaiting the results of the U.S. talks, that is, the talks between the U.S. President and his secretary of state, and the U.S.-Israeli talks regarding the possibility of progress on the Palestinian front. Nevertheless, I rule out the possibility of the 11th round of negotiations being held early next month. No date has been set for it yet. Christopher did not even propose during his tour of the region a date for resuming the negotiations. As for the attainment of progress in the coming months, it is a question surrounded by many question marks and obstacles. What we want to stress now is that the Palestinian people's rights are legitimate and clear. They are negotiating over them and have not raised any heroic or difficult issues. We participated in the negotiations and are awaiting the results. We believe they are like any other action we exercise for the sake of obtaining our people's rights without making any concessions.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect a Syrian-Israeli agreement to be signed, as indicated by the nature of the recent U.S.-Syrian-Israeli talks and contacts?

[Sha'th] Progress may occur in the Syrian-Israeli talks, but I rule out the signing of a separate agreement before the complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories—which requires time, in fact years.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect the level of representation to be raised in the next round of negotiations?

[Sha'th] I doubt it. The time has not yet come.

[Abu-Husayn] Some reports indicate that Christopher's tour focused on salvaging the situation in Lebanon and

neutralizing Syria's role by urging it not to intervene or expand the circle of the war. What is your opinion?

[Sha'th] Christopher's tour was decided on before the events in Lebanon and the barbarous operations which Israel launched against southern Lebanese villages. In my view, Christopher came to the region to tackle problems on three principal fronts: Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine.

And indeed his tour did salvage the situation in Lebanon, as this situation could have threatened the peace process. I believe that he succeeded in achieving some progress on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts. As for Palestine, he offered nothing more than we had expected, namely that the United States is unwilling, nor does it wish, to put pressure on Israel at present—without which the U.S. Administration's efforts will not produce any positive results on the Palestinian track in particular.

[Abu-Husayn] Aside from talking about pressures, what are the latest developments with regard to the attempts made recently to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue officially and publicly? And do you believe that such a dialogue is important in order to achieve progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

[Sha':h] We actually hope that the United States will put pressure on Israel to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue officially and publicly, and not to avoid taking a courageous Israeli step in this connection. So if the Rabin government decides to do this, it will be the real starting point for a serious settlement with the Palestinians, especially as it is negotiating officially with the other governments. When the talk about negotiation with the PLO begins, it is a different question: They send figures to meet with us. But they are not 100 percent ready for this. I met in the past with a number of figures sent by Rabin, but Israel denied it. I am not an amateur politician, nor are they. Israel is trying it with us, but cautiously. Because a dialogue with the PLO means recognition of the Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories]. At any rate, we are always ready for this dialogue, no matter how long it takes to initiate it. The Americans negotiated with China for 15 years at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. Neither party was willing to recognize the existence of the other until the United States eventually recognized China and sent its envoy to announce this.

[Abu-Husayn] What results are expected from the cordon states' meetings scheduled to be held in Beirut?

[Sha'th] The results are known beforehand, except an agreement on taking a collective decision on a date for resuming the negotiations, the issues to be raised at the negotiating table in the next round, coordinating action, continuing consultation, and containing any divisions which may occur here or there on the four Arab tracks.

Israeli, U.S. Pressure Blamed for Differences

TA1008172393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Position Between Pressures and Differences"]

[Text] The reports and news on the differences inside the Palestinian house, resulting in the resignation of three members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, reflect a dangerous aspect that has been ignored by many of the news media covering this issue. The matter does not merely concern conflicting views over a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles as much as the fact that it is outside forces that have caused these differences, especially the ambiguity of the U.S. position, which is known for its support for Israel through the proposals that the U.S. Administration presented to the Palestinian side during the peace talks.

The Israeli side has not gone much beyond the ideas of former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The Israeli proposals for a settlement have been reduced to much less than the Camp David plan. Let us not forget that before joining the national unity government with the Likud at the end of the 1980's, the Israeli Labor Party had rejected the Camp David framework. Its rejection was based on the conviction that this framework is much less than the minimal Palestinian and Arab demands.

For its part, the United States proclaimed by words only that it will fulfill the role of full partner. After this declaration, its acts of total bias toward Israel became bolder than before. Thus, it abandoned all internationally accepted terms and expressions used to describe the Palestinian situation under occupation. The United States also disavowed positions that had been described as established positions of consecutive U.S. governments. It did not refrain from adopting a position similar to the Israeli one with regard to the negotiating framework and terms of reference and the papers of the proposed settlement.

It was expected that this continuous pressure on the Palestinian cadres, whether the leading or negotiating ones, would cause adverse effects harming the peace process above all. A just, durable, and comprehensive peace cannot be imposed by pressure on and maneuvers against the Palestinian side from the premise that it is the weaker party in view of the difficult and tragic situation of the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. It would be better, more just, and logical if, for the sake of maintaining the spirit of peace and its perpetuity, the Israeli side and its U.S. partner were to help preserve the cohesion of the Palestinian negotiating stance by dealing positively and respectfully with Palestinian aspirations and endeavoring toward their achievement through the peace talks, because any stalemate or flaw in the negotiating framework will threaten peace and its negotiations with the gravest dangers.

Algeria

Interior Minister: Foreign Debt Main Problem

LD1008210693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Interior Minister Mohamad Hardi statement to staff of Fire and Rescue Service in Algiers "today"—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the most compassionate. At the beginning, I would like to salute and congratulate the fire and rescue men of Algiers province, and through them, the fire and rescue family throughout the national territories for their gigantic work efforts under very difficult conditions.

Truly, conditions have become inconceivably dangerous; civilian ambulances have been subjected to armed attacks and treacherous shootings.

Brothers, Algeria today is passing through a special phase, which means it needs the protection of all its sincere, truthful, and loyal sons. You, the youth, who are being trained today by the fire and rescue family, will consolidate the ranks of those who struggle to protect the civilians and homeland.

Algeria today is in need of a wide-ranging rescue operation. Saving Algeria is the aim which the government is eager to achieve today. The main economic problem which is impeding efforts exerted by the different sincere, national sides to pull the country out of its ordeal is the issue of indebtedness. This threatens the country's policies and the freedom of its decision-making.

Therefore, it is necessary to affirm that maintaining Algeria's sovereignty and its honor inside and outside the country is the responsibility of all Algerians and political officials, whether they are in power or are in the opposition. Within this framework, it becomes clear that it is the sacred duty of all Algerians to stand as one man before this danger, and to confront it. Anyone who has waived this duty and has worked towards destroying his country and the nation's possessions, wealth, and the means of developments would be a traitor to his country.

As long as the present government, which has no responsibility for what has taken place in the last decade, is there, it will try to rescue the country from where it is and to achieve a break with the behavior and practices of the past. The people who work today to sabotage the country will have no pretext. The question which is put forward to these people is: Who are you fighting and for whose benefit do you fight?

If your aim is to sabotage the country and to eliminate it in order to reach power by violence or by implementing a foreign conspiracy, be certain that you will never succeed, because you will find in front of you men who are believers—steadfast, loyal to their homeland, and determined to close the door on evil and hostility and to protect the country from any evil.

If your aim, as some claim, is to defend the true Islamic religion and pure values and justice and to stand against anybody who has broken and destroyed the country, this is a matter that is not justified at all. This is the aim the government is working day and night to achieve.

In this context, I stress that Algeria is steadfast, will remain steadfast, and will get out of its ordeal in defiance of its enemies and those who conspire against it, whether from within the country or outside it.

In the end, I address the men of the Fire and Rescue Service in order to call on them to continue to act as they have in the past. I request from them more efforts and sacrifices at work. You are the men of the Fire and Rescue Service, and at the same time are the protectors of the homeland.

In the end, may God make all of us successful in everything which is for the good of our Algeria. May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Higher State Council Chairman Meets With Youth

LD1008202293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Excerpt] As part of the debate held by youth associations regarding the general situation of the country and the means to get out of the crisis, these associations have met Higher State Council [HCE] Chairman Ali Kafi at the presidency of the republic. The discussion focused on the roots of the crisis and the responsibility of youth in facing the challenge and stopping the danger.

During the discussion, the HCE chairman raised a number of essential matters related to the nation's onward march and the challenges the country has faced in its various stages. He stressed the necessity for the national march to recover its right line and to get away from stagnation—from being closed to the outside world, and from falling into chauvinism—since all great modern countries and states are based on historical national movements. Algeria has a history to refer to, and this is the foundation for renewing the national project.

Regarding Islam, the HCE chairman said that this is the creed of the nation and the guarantee of its unity, and it must not be the subject of blackmail or one-upmanship. Algerian society rejects violence because it is strange to it and to the youth. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Receives Christopher Message on Peace Talks

NC1008190993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a message from U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher. The message contains a principled assessment of the outcome of the talks the secretary of state has had with the heads of states concerned with the Middle East peace process.

The foreign minister received the message during his meeting with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo this evening.

Iranian 'Inclination' Toward 'Domination' Seen

NC1008065793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM urges more Arab coordination in order to face the potential risks in the Iranian leadership's growing inclination towards domination. This coordination can come through the Arab League or the Damascus Declaration, the paper notes.

In its editorial today, the paper refers to remarks by Iranian Revolution Guide 'Ali Khamene'i that his country is capable of obtaining the most sophisticated modern weapons. The paper remarks that this statement is made in defiance of the United States, which is trying to put many restrictions on Iranian armament efforts. Along with making many other implications, the announcement suggests that Iran will sustain its arms activity, which is designed to achieve supremacy over neighboring regional powers, the paper says. It adds that this will allow the Iranian leadership to gain greater power so it can use pressure in its relations with regional states.

AL-AHRAM notes that this statement, in addition to affecting the power conflicts within Iran, will affect Arab security, particularly in neighboring Arab states. This requires further coordination among Arab countries, the paper emphasizes.

Spokesman Condemns Violence in South Africa

NC1108081893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The official Foreign Ministry spokesman has stressed that in its capacity as the current OAU chairman, Egypt condemns the increasing wave of violence in South Africa, which has left hundreds of innocent people dead or injured and which is obstructing the negotiating process. Egypt hopes that these regrettable incidents will not hinder the efforts being made by the negotiating parties, which hope to reach an agreement in the near future. Egypt emphasizes its determination to continue its efforts to encourage a peaceful settlement in South Africa through total support for the ongoing peace negotiations among the various parties.

'Rumors' on Policy Toward Palestinians Denied

NC1108060393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has expressed its belief that those people who are trying to spread rumors and lies about Egypt's stand on the Palestinian people and the PLO are neither Palestinians nor people who want to help the Palestinian cause. They cannot be trying to help by promoting such venomous propaganda that claims that Cairo is applying pressure on the Palestinian side in the peace talks.

The newspaper affirms in its 11 August editorial that this claim has been made by sides that wish to destroy the whole peace process.

The newspaper reminds readers of statements made by Palestinian leaders, both from the PLO and the Palestine National Council, that Egypt is throwing its whole weight behind the Palestinian stand and is exerting great effort and is using its international contacts to overcome any obstacles that could hamper the progress of the negotiations.

The newspaper adds that Egypt has never once relinquished its Arab responsibilities, foremost of which is the question of Palestine. Egypt believes that it is its duty to exert all its efforts to stand alongside the Palestinian brothers, despite everything it has tolerated and continues to tolerate from some renegades who have no inhibitions about attempting to muddy the true efforts Egypt exerts to restore Palestinian rights.

The newspaper warns that if the objective of the prevarications and lies is to push Egypt to abandon its vanguard Arab role and to destroy the peace process, these desperate attempts will end in absolute failure as has happened many times before.

Security Source Denies Policeman Killed in Aswan

NC1108060693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—A security source has denied a report broadcast today on London radio that a police officer was killed in Aswan by extremists.

The source affirmed that there is no truth whatsoever to this report.

Sudan

Suspension of IMF Membership Said 'Unjustified'

EA1008214593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0944 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 August—The state's minister for international cooperation, Sapana Jambo, described the suspension of Sudan's membership in the IMF as "an unjustified political stance" as the Sudan has opened many channels for cooperating with the IMF through its adoption of clear policies in its economy. He told the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI issued here on Tuesday [10 August] that the IMF convinced of the

Sudan's method describing the liberation policy adopted by the government as progressing well [sentence as received].

"We have never expected that the IMF to take this excessive measure at this time, despite [the fact that] the IMF has also halted its finance and assistance since 1990," he said. He added that the Sudan has taken serious steps to organize [its] economy by paying the Sudan's arrears of credit, pointing out the government's keenness and seriousness in mapping out a comprehensive program for solving arrears problem.

Meanwhile, economic sources expressed astonishment on the IMF's resolution, saying that the resolution came amid IMF confidence in the economic program followed by the Sudan, which enabled it to achieve a growth rate of 13 percent. The sources pointed out that there is a clear recognition by the IMF of the great leap that took place in the progress of the Sudanese economy.

It is to be recalled that the Sudan's arrears to the IMF are estimated at 1.2 billion dollars of which 478 dollars are interests and taxes and the rest is the principal.

Ummah Partly Leader al-Mahdi on Peace Plan

PM1108094693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 9-15 Aug 93 pp 18-22

[Interview with Sudanese Ummah Party Leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Kamal Hamid in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hamid] The Sudanese Government has entered its fifth year despite its semi-isolation internationally and despite its Arab isolation and allegedly decreasing popularity. What, in your view, are the reasons for the continuation of this situation and what do you think of the opposition claims that a change is imminent?

[Al-Mahdi] The situation in Sudan is full of strange things. The regime cannot claim that it is running the country's affairs with ideas, economy, and peace. It is isolated from the public because all the political and ideological trends are opposed to it, except the one which stands behind it. I do not see any way out of the problems facing the regime. Elements which used to support the regime now openly oppose it. Its international isolation has reached the point of condemnation by the international community. There has recently been much talk about charges of corruption, favoritism, and appeasement of supporters. They may not all be true, but most of them are. I would not describe the regime in its present state as a continuing regime. It is just holding on to the seat of power in a way that I would not accept for myself, not for all the money in the world. The regime is like someone standing on hot tin. As to what will happen and how, these are matters I do not wish to talk about. It is sufficient to say that what is happening now cannot possibly continue. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Do you not see anything positive about the government after four years?

[Al-Mahdi] The government has achieved nothing other than being firmer in maintaining the regime's security and firmer in imposing and collecting taxes. These are its achievements: Firmness for the regime's security, not the people's.

[Hamid] The world is talking about your plan for the establishment of peace in Sudan. What has become of it and what are its main features?

[Al-Mahdi] The peace plan I submitted combines all the past peace plans, and concentrates the positive aspects. The plan is now acceptable to all the political and ideological forces in Sudan except the one which supports the regime. In brief, the plan calls for agreement on and definition of Sudanese human rights and the rights of the Sudanese people, and for making that the basis of the desired constitution. Our plan calls for a national constitutional conference to determine the degree of decentralization and to settle the issues of unity, federation, and confederation. It then calls for a public referendum on what the constitutional conference decides. The conference would also resolve the issues of identity, sharing of wealth and power, and the relationship between religion and politics, and it would generally call for a regime that would provide freedom and democracy, which are lacking under the current regime. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Would you call for the isolation of the political forces which support the present regime if your comprehensive plan for peace and government is implemented?

[Al-Mahdi] We want to solve Sudan's problems in a manner satisfactory to all its people. That is what we really seek. We now want a solution in which all the Sudanese would participate as much as possible, with the exception of those who choose to isolate themselves from the whole. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Does civil jihad against the current regime mean the beginning of open confrontation?

[Al-Mahdi] Civil jihad under Islam is a continuing task, which includes personal jihad and jihad by all peaceful means including giving money, expressing one's views, and by organizing. All these things come under civil jihad, which does not advocate violence or bloodshed. We have made our views clear on this matter. The regime will not be able to change anything by making an abundance of accusations or by using coercion and control. We will not give up the civil jihad. That is what the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, did. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] How do you view Khartoum's efforts to improve its foreign relations and initiate a dialogue in the interests of Arab solidarity?

[Al-Mahdi] I see no sign of that. The regime needs to pause and search its conscience in order to make up its

mind to end its confrontational, haughty, and coercive course. It will not succeed in any attempts to improve its foreign relations unless it reviews its policies. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Nigeria is preoccupied with its own internal situation. The Sudanese peace talks in Abuja are still suspended. What, in your view, is the alternative? Do you believe that the stumbling negotiations and the possible collapse of the cease-fire between the government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] would enhance the chances of the call for safe havens and for foreign intervention?

[Al-Mahdi] In my view, the main question is: Are the Sudanese people capable of solving their own problems or do they need others to participate in the solution? The answer is that we are capable and we have a complete concept for that but the obstinacy, narrow-mindedness, and partisan fanaticism of this regime have led to the collapse of an integral peace plan unanimously accepted by all the Sudanese forces and resulted in the search for new solutions. The plan is complete and does not forfeit sovereignty or rights. [passage omitted]

As regards Nigeria, its internal circumstances are complex, and that can only end through a return to democracy. I cannot see it playing half the role it played before. I mean that the Nigerian role is finished. I believe that the regime should either restore the accepted Sudanese plan granting people their legitimate rights or it should seek a foreign solution with the participation of neighboring states interested in Sudan's stability. These are the two possible ways. There is no other way if the regime wants to end this crisis. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] You have been accused of supporting the call for foreign intervention in Sudan.

[Al-Mahdi] I believe that the talk about foreign intervention should be addressed to those who create the circumstances which warrant intervention. By that I mean the regime itself which is providing the pretext for intervention. We do not support intervention and we want the Sudanese to solve their own problems to prevent intervention. The talk about intervention is the result of the charges made against the regime, of violating human rights, and of preventing delivery of relief supplies. These are the things which lead to intervention, but I am against intervention, and I do not see any of the people close to me advocating it.

[Hamid] Many people are wondering about the extent of personal freedom you enjoy?

[Al-Mahdi] I have no freedom. I am not in detention but I am questioned every month and I am under surveillance. People close to me have been detained. Speakers who support me are threatened. The latest such case was 'Abdallah Barakat who was detained a few days ago. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] We have not asked you this time about initiatives or attempts at reconciliation and participation in the government.

[Al-Mahdi] I do not think so. Our position is very clear. We support any national, democratic, and peaceful solution. We are ready for that but nothing else. We stand fast, wait, and stick to our position.

Kuwait

Interior Minister on Border Security Issues

PM1008143893 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8-14 Aug 93 pp 29-30

[Interview with Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Mutayri] In terms of safeguarding Kuwait's security, what areas are covered by the Interior Ministry? And what were the obstacles to its mission?

[Al-Sabah] Without a doubt, the Interior Ministry is performing an extremely important national and humanitarian mission, namely safeguarding the homeland's security and stability and providing security for all those living on its territory.

As for the obstacles which hampered the ministry's organs, we all know that the brutal Iraqi aggression destroyed all the ministry's facilities and security organs. The post-liberation period represented a big challenge for the Interior Ministry in relation to rebuilding the destroyed security facilities, restoring security control over all parts of the country, restoring the standing of the state and the law, and reestablishing public order. And—with God's help—we were able in record time to restore Kuwait to what it used to be before the occupation in terms of security, peace, and stability.

[Al-Mutayri] Kuwait's borders continue to be infiltrated by Iraqi and Iranian infiltrators. What measures has the ministry taken to put an end to these infiltrations?

[Al-Sabah] Infiltration is an international problem. It happens between many world states like the United States and Mexico, and Japan and the states of east Asia. Infiltrators usually leave poor states and try to enter rich ones. Kuwait is fully aware of the scale of the dangers of smuggling and infiltration operations across the border. This is why border facilities were among the first to receive the attention of Interior Ministry officials immediately after the liberation. Border security facilities were reexamined in terms of organization, jurisdiction, and aims. Then large-scale support—human and technical—was provided to the facilities whose task is to protect the borders, like the border force directorate entrusted with watching and protecting the land border and the coast guard directorate entrusted with watching and protecting sea borders. Anyhow, infiltration operations are now under complete control. Even if some people manage to infiltrate the border, security services behind the border forces arrest them inside the country.

As for the measures, the Interior Ministry is pursuing a comprehensive plan to achieve the highest organization, training, and technical level for its organs. This includes the border guard force and the coast guard force whose capability of protecting our borders and repulsing infiltration and smuggling attacks against our country is increasing, as such attacks involve numerous security dangers and complications.

[Al-Mutayri] Was the problem of Iranian infiltrators and their infiltration of the Kuwaiti border raised with officials in Iran? And, if so, what was their response?

[Al-Sabah] Infiltration by sea was among the issues I discussed with Iranian officials during my visit to Iran some time ago. Broad outlines were drawn up with Iranian security officials to determine the features of security cooperation vis-a-vis sea smuggling and infiltration operations across territorial waters. We hope that an agreement will be signed between the two countries in the near future to put an end to this question. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mutayri] It has been reported that Kuwaiti fishermen are harassed by the Iranian Navy, which confiscates their boats in Kuwaiti territorial waters. Have you found a solution to this problem?

[Al-Sabah] With regard to the Iranian Navy's harassment of Kuwaiti fishing boats in Kuwaiti territorial waters, these are isolated incidents which seldom take place, and an understanding is usually reached in this connection with the Iranian authorities. I don't believe that Kuwaiti boats have been exposed to any harassment by the Iranian Navy for a long time. The other aspect of the issue is that Kuwaiti fishermen sometimes move into Iranian territorial waters unintentionally. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mutayri] You have invited the Iranian interior minister to visit Kuwait. Will certain issues be discussed during the visit?

[Al-Sabah] Discussions will focus on ways of reinforcing and developing coordination between the security organs in the two countries, including cooperation in combating drugs, smuggling, and infiltration, in addition to the issues of common concern dictated by the nature of relations between the two countries and new developments in the security sphere. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mutayri] The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry sought the help of state security officers from the Arab Republic of Egypt. Was this because of the incompetence of state security officers in Kuwait? And does this confirm what was said, namely that the investigations conducted of those who collaborated with Iraq were incomplete?

[Al-Sabah] In fact the Kuwaiti security organs' experience after the liberation was their most difficult experience. Kuwait has never in its history experienced such incidents and such huge numbers of crimes. In view of these circumstances, the help of state security officers in Egypt was sought to help their brothers, the Kuwaiti state security officers. And I can confirm that all the measures taken against the suspects in state security cases were complete and none of them suffered injustice.

[Al-Mutayri] What is your reply to the threats launched by Palestinian organizations against Kuwaiti interests inside and outside? Have any measures been taken to confront these threats?

[Al-Sabah] We do not fear threats, whatever the source, as long as we are in the right. Our cause is a just cause and was supported by all the world states which believe in international legitimacy and human rights. As for the measures taken to confront these threats, we do not react emotionally. There is a comprehensive plan for all security facilities which provides for maximum security and safety for Kuwait's interests both outside and inside the country. And I stress that security organs are always ready to confront any possibilities or dangers. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Islamic Movements Finance Extremists

PM1008142293 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8-14 Aug 93 p 27

[Unattributed report: "Al-'Azimi: We Refuse To Allow Politicized Islamic Movements To Run Mosques"]

[Text] Kuwaiti Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Jam'an al-'Azimi has told AL-MAJALLAH: The ministry is committed to spreading the Islamic religion in accordance with the correct method, and it does not adhere to or defend a particular ideology.

Al-'Azimi described Islamic moves in Kuwait as tidal movements, ebbing and flowing. He believes that the Islamic movements' desire to accentuate their work through seminars and lectures reflects Kuwaiti society's openness.

Al-'Azimi said that the Islamists' victory in the National Assembly elections reflected the orientations of the Kuwaiti scene. He denied the existence of religious extremism in Kuwait. He pointed out that there are some isolated actions attributable to some people's ignorance of the rules of the Islamic call [al-da'wah].

The awqaf minister went on to say that his ministry watches and guides, refusing to allow the Islamic movements to run the mosques.

He added that Islamic charity work requires organization after the discontent expressed on the Kuwaiti scene recently. This is why the ministry is working to coordinate matters inside the mosques to assure donors that their money is in a safe place. Al-'Azimi said that money collected will be made known to anyone who asks or inquires about it.

Al-'Azimi denied to AL-MAJALLAH the reports that Kuwaiti Islamic movements finance extremism. He said that the completed projects had been coordinated with officials in the states concerned.

Saudi Arabia

Papers View PLO Differences; Urge Palestinian Unity

LD1008132893 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Riyadh, Aug 10, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on a number of issues. The Dammam-based AL-YAWM said the difference between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and three top Palestinian peace negotiators was not in harmony with the current phase through which the Mideast peace talks were passing specially after the efforts made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to break the deadlock in which the talks had fell after the tenth round.

The paper said Israel was waiting for any difference among Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular to play its tactical and political games which had become obvious to anyone. AL-YAWM said Israel had been always planning to stir up Arab differences and prolong them in order to gain more time to strengthen its grip on the Arab lands. Commenting on the same issue, the Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the Palestinians should forge an agreement among them on the objectives of the peace process as a whole. The paper said the difference among Arab parties concerned with peace would benefit Israel, because such differences shall form the gap through which Israel will infiltrate to blow up the whole peace process.

AL-BILAD said the Palestinians should agree among themselves to broad lines which would lead them to the achievement of their legitimate rights and lands occupied by Israel.

Another paper, AL-MADINAH, also published in Jeddah, said the Palestinians should overcome their differences whatsoever they were specially at the current phase in order to maintain the unity of the Palestinian ranks which was an important card in the fierce talks which the Arabs were holding with Israel. The paper said Israel was the only beneficiary in the current difference between PLO and its negotiators. AL-MADINAH said Israel had entered these talks with one goal in mind that was to have unilateral agreements with the Arab countries and to undermine the Arab unity and solidarity.

For its part, the Jeddah-based 'UKAZ criticized the western countries for their reluctance over taking a firm action to check the Serbs attacks on Bosnian Muslims since the Serbs had shown no seriousness in raising their seige of Sarajevo. The paper said some people say what was going on at the moment was mere coincidence and was not pre-planned but in fact this was not true. 'UKAZ said if the west and the United Nations were serious they should bring forward to justice the Serb criminals instead of accepting as peace negotiators in the Geneva talks.

Rebel Radio Claims Regime Behind 9 Aug Car Bombing

JN1008193393 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Following the recent explosion near the Iraqi Museum in Baghdad which killed several bystanders, the Saddamist criminal propaganda machines claimed, as is their wont, that the Islamic Republic of Iran was behind the explosion.

Therefore, while offering warm condolences to the families of the victims, we assert that history has never witnessed meaner or more despicable methods than those of the spiteful 'Aflaqite clique. They are shedding crocodile tears about the disasters afflicting our Muslim people, disasters caused by this clique itself.

Our people know that these barbaric deeds and crimes are the doing of the criminal Ba'thist regime as it attempts to cover up its daily follies against the people, especially in the Marshlands. [word indistinct] our victorious mujahidin operations are aimed only against the centers of authority, its repressive gangs, and its criminal 'Aflaqite mercenaries. It will never be aimed at any of our zealous Iraqi people, who formed and still form the basis of the great Islamic revolution, its broad masses, and its real bastion of jihad [words indistinct] and evil.

'Chemical Materials' Storage Site Found

JN1008201693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] During current work to rebuild the (Wali Hayri) village in the Kifri area by the KRO [expansion unknown] organization, a swamp was found with water that looked abnormal. After carrying out tests, it was discovered that the site was the place where the 51st Division of the regime was positioned before the [Kurdish] uprising and that chemical materials were hidden there.

Paper Analyzes Clinton's 'Predicament' in Somalia

JN1008123093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—In an article today, AL-JUMHURIYAH expects President Bill Clinton to pull U.S. troops out of Somalia under pressure of the Vietnam complex, which is once again playing on the nerves of the U.S. public, driving them to urge him openly to reconsider his policy toward this Arab African country.

The paper asserts that the all-out struggle waged by the sons of Somalia against U.S. deployment on their territory has awakened the U.S. people's complex of fear of getting involved in any external war, in view of the bitter defeats and heavy losses sustained by the United States during their face-off with the Vietnamese resistance.

The paper notes the efforts made by U.S. intelligence agencies and psychological research institutes to bury this deep-rooted complex. The Vietnam complex surfaced again during the aggression against Iraq, taking the shape of sweeping appeals to avoid involvement in the Gulf war. However, using high tech and shortening the duration of the war put the complex to sleep once again.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Bush administration repeated the mistake of previous administrations by getting involved in Somalia, miscalculating the reaction of small or poor nations. The Bush administration presumed that the civil war in Somalia, hunger, political divisions, as well as the presence of someone who was willing to do business with the United States meant they could easily control that country and benefit from its strategic location near the Arabian Gulf.

The paper criticizes the shortsighted attitude of a state deeming itself the world's first superpower toward a small country, disregarding the Somali people's own distinctive traits and their priorities. The factions which the United States had counted on have joined the national resistance. The entire Somali nation is now literally in the trench of resistance against the invaders.

The paper goes on to analyze the U.S. predicament in Somalia, saying: It is certain that the number of victims is higher than that of U.S. troops killed in Somalia. The Somali people, however, are willing to make sacrifices for their independence and dignity, while the U.S. individual would not sacrifice his life for any reason. The paper recalls that President Clinton was one of the active opponents of the Vietnam war and refused to join U.S. troops there.

The paper adds: When they faced the invasion of their country and rejected the occupation of their territory, the Somali people did not think in terms of size and consequences. Had Somalia stopped to realize that the United States is a superpower and that it is a small, starving, and divided country, it would not have chosen to clash with it.

Faced with these realities, the paper says, Clinton can either pull out from Somalia and admit his failure or stay there and bear a burden beyond his capacity.

If Clinton wants to continue the crime of killing the Somalis, he should send more U.S. and other troops to the war. This is rejected by the U.S. and world public opinion.

U.S. Said Involved in Drug Trafficking in Kurdistan

JN1008142693 Baghdad INA in English 1229 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 10, INA—Kurdish citizens said leaders of the traitorous parties, Americans, British, Israelis and international observers have turned vast areas in Kurdistan into fields for growing hashish and opium.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Iraq quoted Kurdish citizens as saying that these groups had been actively

involved in trafficking operation through Iranian and Turkish territories to Europe under cover of the United Nations.

The paper brought to mind the article published by the Kurdish Paper KHA BAT on the cultivation of opium and hashish in many parts of Kurdistan.

The paper said that two weeks after the publication of the article, differences broke out between those who supported growing narcotics and those opposing it.

The Kurdish citizens gave a description of the tragic situation in the Kurdish autonomy region stressing that the traitorous cliques took possession of food rations supplied by the state and sold them again to the people at black market prices, the fact that led thousands of Kurds to flee their homes to the safer government-controlled areas.

Mas'ud Barzani, one of the traitorous agents, has admitted, in a statement to the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN, the tragic situation suffered by Kurds in north Iraq and has announced that the only way to escape the situation was to seek refuge at government-controlled areas.

Salih Meets French Friendship Society Group

JN1008140793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1218 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received al-Hashimi Banani, head of the French-Iraqi Solidarity and Friendship Organization, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih stressed that the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations, particularly those maintaining the inhuman blockade on Iraq's people; exposing 18 million Iraqis to death, diseases, and starvation; and depriving them of basic necessities conflict with humanitarian norms and charters, international laws, and human rights agreements that are meant to protect them and guarantee a decent life for them.

He added that, through their determination and absolute faith in President Saddam Husayn's leadership, Iraq's people will overcome their current difficult times and will achieve clear victory, after they have reconstructed what was damaged by the enemies during the 30-state aggression.

For his part, al-Hashimi Banani said that the continued blockade on Iraq's people is a crime, stressing that his delegation will explain the suffering and tragedies of the Iraqi people.

The delegation, which is visiting the country at the invitation of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization in Iraq, includes Alice Tazray [name as received], head of the Society for Saving Iraqi Children in France, and Jacques Loke [name as received], a representative of the Pharmacists Without Frontiers organization.

Trade Minister: Cigarette Purchases By Ration Card Only

JN1008140093 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Aug p 4

[Text] Al-Ta'mim—AL-JUMHURIYAH office: Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said that an agreement was signed between his Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization making cigarette purchases throughout the country by ration card only. Speaking while on a visit to al-Ta'mim Governorate yesterday, the minister said the measure will go into effect after the Ministry takes delivery from the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization of enough cigarettes to meet the requirements of the country. Officials from the two ministries have met to coordinate on the measure.

Christian Religion Courses, Exams Under Consideration

JN1008145293 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Aug p 4

[By Bushra Hamdani]

[Text] Baghdad—Following the orders of His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn to provide a heavier dose of religious education in Iraqi schools, Ministry of Education experts and specialists have been considering courses on Christianity to be given to Christian pupils in Iraqi schools. The Christian pupils will be required to take examinations in the Christian religion just as their Muslim counterparts take the Islamic religion tests.

Rabin Denies Policy Change on Negotiations With PLO

TA1108045893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says Israel has not changed its policy against negotiating with the PLO. The prime minister made the statement in a telephone briefing to the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations. Rabin said yesterday he remains convinced Israel must negotiate with the Palestinian delegation comprising residents of the territories. Speaking to reporters during a tour of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] posts in Samaria, he said the Army's antiterrorist activity is focused on members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad organizations. At the Dayr Ballut post, where two soldiers were killed in a clash with Hamas terrorists last week, Rabin talked with reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Mr. Rabin, a recent survey shows that more than half the Palestinians in the territories believe the peace talks are going nowhere and should be abandoned. We see a certain amount of confusion within the ranks of the PLO and their representatives here. Do you think this is going to lead to an upsurge in violence and further difficulties in trying to advance the process?

[Rabin] No, I don't believe that the amount of violence is only related to the question of the peace negotiations. First and foremost, it has to be coped with on the merits of fighting against terrorism, and is dependent on our capability to be more effective against terrorism.

[Ben-'Ami] How effective do you think you can be? In the last three or four days, three soldiers killed, several wounded in attacks all over the territories.

[Rabin] I don't see a change in the amount or the number of terror activities. Today there are many more carried out by the Hamas, by the Islamic Jihad, and sometimes unfortunately the results are very painful.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you see Israel having to deal now more with the PLO, because of the split of the delegation?

[Rabin] No.

[Ben-'Ami] Why not?

[Rabin] No. [end recording]

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 August adds more details on Rabin's message to the U.S. Jewish leaders: "Referring to the talks with Syria, Yitzhaq Rabin said there is a positive change in Damascus, but many problems still remain. The prime minister emphasized that a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty is not negotiable."]

Advocates No Change in Delegation

TA1008171693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Excerpts] On a tour of Dayr Ballut today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he continues to believe that the negotiations can and should be held with the Palestinian delegation made up of residents of the territories.

The prime minister said that the Lebanese Army had the capability to deploy its forces north of the security zone. The Lebanese Army has not been ordered not to deploy sufficient forces or not to disarm Hizballah. Prime Minister Rabin visited the site where two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed and spoke with the troops in the area. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Menashe] The prime minister then addressed the possibility of negotiations with the PLO.

[Rabin] I do not want to engage in speculation. My assessment is that there will continue to be a Palestinian delegation made up of residents of the territories. It is no secret that even before the Madrid peace conference, as well as after it, the Palestinian delegation received faxes, telephone calls, and visits from Tunisia. It was never independent, and this is still the case today. I never entertained any illusion that it would become independent, certainly not at this stage. Nevertheless, I remain of the opinion that the negotiations should be conducted with the delegation composed of residents of the territories.

[Menashe] The Lebanese Army continues to deploy in the south. Do you believe that they will be successful in preventing Hizballah activity?

[Rabin] We believe that the Lebanese Army has both the authority and the capability to deploy its forces in south Lebanon, north of the security zone; I stress, to the north of the security zone. If it succeeds in deploying substantial force, and if it is ordered to disarm all the militias, including Hizballah, then this will be possible. In my opinion, the Lebanese Army has not been ordered not to deploy its forces adequately, or instructed not to disarm Hizballah. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 10 August reports that "our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the prime minister also visited Tulkarm and Qalqilyah today. The prime minister received a briefing that said this year there had been fewer terrorist attacks, shootings, explosive devices, and firebombs than in the same period in 1992."]

Aide: Rabin Knew of Sarid-Sha'th Meeting

TA1108112093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's media adviser, Gad Ben- Ari, confirms that Mr. Rabin knew beforehand about the meeting between Minister Yosi Sarid and

Knesset Member Dedi Zucker and Nabil Sha'th in Cairo and that he approved the meeting. Rabin made it clear, however, that the two acted independently and did not represent the government.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Yitzhaq Rabin also said this in a telephone conversation with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, in which he briefed them about the political process.

Peres Says Cabinet Ministers Allowed To Meet PLO

TA1008145593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that cabinet ministers are allowed to meet PLO members despite the government's refusal to officially recognize this organization. He was speaking at a meeting with prominent United Jewish Appeal donors. Replying to a question on the issue, Minister Peres asserted that the meetings with PLO men show that the Israeli cabinet is made up of people holding diverse opinions. He noted that if he were asked his own personal opinion, he would not recommend that the cabinet ministers meet with PLO members.

'Understanding' Said Imminent

TA1008173193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] In an interview with reporter Jack Katzenell, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he believes Israel and the Palestinians are close to an understanding. If this is the case, our reporter asked, why are the Palestinians still talking about difficulties?

[Begin Peres recording] Well, I wouldn't like to appear so pretentious, but I know what they are saying and I believe I know what they are understanding. To have peace we cannot satisfy 100 percent each of the two parties. The two parties will have to make compromises, including the Palestinian one. And, even when I read their documents I can see already some nuances concerning Jerusalem, because when we are talking about Jerusalem—to be more specific and answer your question—on Jerusalem, too, there are two stages: the interim one and the permanent one. Concerning the interim stage, the only real problem related to autonomy is the elections: Will the Palestinians who hold Jordanian passports and reside in Jerusalem be able to participate in the voting process of the autonomy? This is the only real related problem concerning the autonomy. The Palestinians themselves begin to understand that as for the permanent status of Jerusalem, from their point of view, they will have to wait the next stage: namely, the negotiations on the permanent solution. [end recording]

Health Minister Says Talks With PLO Not Ruled Out

TA1008160693 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMt 10 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Segal] Reports originating with the PLO were published today to the effect that Israel's recognition of the PLO is close. Do you think that is true?

[Ramon] Our attitude toward the PLO is a pragmatic one. I am talking about the PLO-Tunis, because we are conducting the negotiations with the PLO in the territories, and the delegation in Washington represents the PLO in the territories. As for the PLO-Tunis, our attitude has always been pragmatic. We have chosen to adhere to the Madrid formula, whereby there is a Palestinian delegation representing the inhabitants of the territories, with which we conduct negotiations about the first phase concerning the status of the inhabitants of the territories.

Now if we realize that the PLO-Tunis is more moderate—as rumors would have it; I am not sure they are true—and is prepared to accept our position on all the disputed issues I noted, I would see no objection to talking to it, too. At this point, that is not the case. I would like to emphasize that our attitude is definitely pragmatic—through which channel can we advance the peace process faster and better? If we advance the process with the Palestinian delegation from the territories and we can reach an arrangement with it about autonomy, including all the issues I mentioned, we should definitely pursue it with the Palestinian delegation. If an arrangement with it appears very difficult hard to attain but an agreement can be attained with the PLO-Tunis, I do not think we should rule it out.

[Segal] In other words, the political-ideological blockade—if we may call it that—imposed by the previous Israeli Government on the PLO-Tunis no longer exists as far as the current government is concerned.

[Ramon] There is no ideological blockade. The people in the PLO-Tunis are neither more nor less righteous than al-Asad and the Syrians. Our attitude on the issue is most pragmatic. After all, the previous government also spoke with the PLO in the territories. It pretended not to and tried to describe some kind of masquerade that only existed in its imagination. Everybody knew who the delegates consulted with and received their directives from, and that is why the whole thing was a charade. The current government does not engage in make-believe in its attitude toward the Palestinians and their delegates, which is pragmatic. As far as I am concerned, the only test is determining through which channel we can reach an agreement on autonomy sooner—an agreement on

autonomy that does not include Jerusalem and the settlements and in which the State of Israel is responsible for overall security.

[Segal] Sir, thank you very much.

Sources: Syria To Adopt Different Tone

TA1108103093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] The United States believes that a "breakthrough" was achieved in the negotiations with Syria during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East. The Americans expected this to find expression with the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington at the end of the month.

Political circles in Jerusalem who reported the U.S. assessment pointed out that at this stage, Israel is adopting a more cautious approach and is waiting for real signs of change in the Syrian positions.

The Americans expect Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, "to speak in a different tone when the talks resume." According to plan, the peace talks are scheduled to resume on 30 August. After that, during September, Christopher, or peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross, will leave for what is described in Washington as a vigorous shuttle mission.

In talks with Israeli officials, the Americans said that Israel and Syria "let Christopher understand that they were aware of the price they had to pay in order to reach peace."

Israeli sources nevertheless said that no substantive positions were expressed during Christopher's meetings, either by Israel with regard to the extent of its withdrawal from the Golan Heights, or by Syria, regarding its concept of the nature of peace. The progress made, the sources said, was manifested in the fact that both sides had agreed to discuss these issues, and others, in the future.

Sources in Jerusalem expressed the hope that at the Washington talks, Syria and Israel would agree on a framework in which to continue to make progress, while perhaps abandoning the effort to formulate a joint declaration of principles, and concentrating instead on reaching an agreed upon agenda. The intention is for the Americans to attempt to bridge the gaps between the parties during the U.S. shuttle mission that will follow the next round of peace talks. [passage omitted]

Sources in Israel yesterday said that the crisis between the Palestinian leadership in the territories and the PLO leadership in Tunis would lead to greater coordination between the two bodies and augment the status of the officials from the territories in the Palestinian decision-making process. [passage omitted]

Officials at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday expressed their reservations with regard to remarks made yesterday by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during a tour of northern Israel, according to which "ministers are allowed to meet with the PLO." The sources said that cabinet ministers cannot behave like private citizens, noting that any political activity by them, or official trips abroad, require the permission of the prime minister or of the entire cabinet. [passage omitted]

Police Capture PFLP Squads From 'Isawiyah

TA1008173493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Over the past month, the Jerusalem District police have uncovered two squads belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. All the members of the squads come from the village of 'Isawiyah.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that one squad has 18 members, most of whom are minors. They are suspected of hurling firebombs and stones over the past year at cars traveling on the Ma'ale Adumim road. They are also suspected of spraying graffiti and participating in processions by masked men in the village.

The other squad is composed of three adult members, who admitted to shooting at people they suspected of collaborating with the authorities. They also admitted to having attempted to snatch a weapon from a resident of the village of Yattah.

Rabin Given 2 Weeks To Decide on Interior Minister

TA1008181393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i says he will not resign in the coming days and will not take leave from his post, but will instead wait for the ruling of the High Court of Justice on his case in two weeks' time. Der'i said he had a letter of resignation from the government ready to be presented to Prime Minister Rabin this past Sunday [8 August], but in an interview with Qol Yisra'el reporter Gil Litman, Minister Der'i said he did not hand in the letter due to requests from the Prime Minister's Office and because his party's spiritual leader, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, forbade him from doing so. Reporter Yo'el Nir says Minister Der'i met with Rabbi Yosef today and that the rabbi again told him to wait.

Justice Minister David Liba'i said earlier that he hoped Der'i would go on leave until the issue of his parliamentary immunity was clarified. Liba'i said he was sure Der'i would ultimately opt for the principles of law.

The High Court of Justice this morning gave Prime Minister Rabin two weeks either to remove Der'i from his post or to explain to the court why Der'i should remain interior minister even though he is facing criminal charges. The court was responding to a petition from the Movement for Quality Government that Der'i be barred from attending the next cabinet meeting.

'Arafat Telephones King To Discuss Peace Process

JN1008163993 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] His majesty the king has received a telephone call from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during which they have exchanged views on all matters of mutual interest and, especially, the peace process. The Palestinian president expressed appreciation of the king's stand for the benefit of Jordanians and Palestinians in particular and the Arab nation in general.

Reports of Internal PLO Differences Analyzed

JN1008155993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Aug 93 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "On the Resignation of the Palestinian Negotiators]

[Text] Reports about the possible resignation of senior Palestinian negotiators have made headlines in newspapers and newscasts. Analyses and speculations continued for two days about the reasons and timing behind the hints at resignation at a time when negotiations are close to completing their second year.

We do not want to support those who go as far as talking about differences in opinions and stands and the clash of interpretations within the Palestinian house in their analyses. However, we do want to pause a little at the meaning of such an unprecedented incident within the Palestinian political body and indeed within the track of the negotiations itself.

Whatever diverse interpretations and differences there are within the Palestinian ranks—differences that are not only not surprising but may be evidence of the vitality of Palestinian decisionmaking—we cannot separate the crisis from the results of the peace process and the frustrations this process has faced throughout the past two years.

All those who follow the course of the negotiations understand the pressure facing the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. Those negotiators are living and breathing the pain suffered daily by their people as a result of rash Israeli policies.

From this perspective, it is natural for those negotiators, who belong to a people living with the harshness and bitterness of occupation, to feel the extent of the pressure Israel's policies continue to create. Especially when, despite the change in the Israeli Government almost a year ago, Israeli stands have not changed on the ground .

Moreover, it is natural for those who came from Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Gaza to feel the pulse of their people and the depth of their frustrations from the continued Israeli policy of maneuvering.

In view of all this, we hope that the differences in views will serve the Palestinian stand and enhance its negotiating performance.

Internal Wrangling 'Grave Mistake'

JN1008125793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 26

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "A Perilous Situation"]

[Text] The Palestinians will be committing a grave mistake if they allow themselves the luxury of confrontation among the leaders, or the politicians inside and outside [the territories]. When Hamas rejected the principle of negotiations, this was not viewed at the time as a divisive issue, as what is taking place now. It was a principled stand, and the same could be found within the Israeli political structure, or here in Amman, and in Beirut and many Arab capitals. According to all standards, this is a healthy sign, as long as people have different opinions.

On the first day of Christopher's tour, we warned the Palestinians and the Syrians about the Egyptian role. We were admonished for describing it as the broker. It has been proven now that the Palestinian document al-Husayni-'Ashrawi-'Urayqat received was an Egyptian pressure document, and that making the document more intransigent by amending it at the last moment was nettling and infuriating. Those on the inside, despite the Israeli daily pressures, had been firmer than those on the outside. As a rule, the opposite should have taken place.

The Palestinian negotiator's stand is still a commited stand. We see Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who boycotted the two U.S. tours, instead leaving for Tunis for discussions. These serious people cannot throw stones from behind barbed wire, because the Tunis leadership is their leadership.

It is impermissible to weaken the PLO. If the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the People's Party (the communists) have something to say about a collective leadership, nothing is preventing them from joining the negotiating team. They are members of the Executive Committee, and they must fight from their positions within the committee, which is the real leadership.

This also applies to the 10 factions in Damascus. What difference is there between Drs. Habash, Hawatimah, Ahmad Jibril, and Abu-Musa [Sa'id Muraghah], and others? Why should they not all hold a dialogue in Tunis? Since the Arabs are negotiating with Rabin, why should they not negotiate with Yasir 'Arafat?

It is not permissible to weaken the PLO. By weakening it, one would weaken the Palestinian position. This is a very perilous thing to do, irrespective of what interpretations there may be on national issues. This has

occurred with respect to the document that was submitted and that came from Cairo—a document that passed through the weak loophole that exists within the PLO as a result of its circumstances on the domestic level.

We in Jordan also have our own opinion. There are parties and quarters which are against the entire peace process. However, no one can accept the weakening of the national stand, and consequently the stand of the negotiating delegation, since this will reflect on the cause Jordan defends, and on Jordan's stands and its Arab and international relations.

We call for closing ranks around the PLO as quickly as possible. If pressure needs to be exerted on this leadership, let it come from within—from the Executive Committee and from within the Palestinian house.

Editorial Praises Prince Hasan's Visit to Qatar

JN1008164693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Aug 93 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Auspicious Doha Meeting"]

[Text] In statements upon his return from a visit to fraternal Qatar, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan spoke of the strong feelings of distress shared by Jordan and Qatar over the saddening Arab state of affairs. He said the Jordanian and Qatari sides addressed the Arab intellect and conscience in a joint endeavor to foster a new awakening.

It goes without saying that the Jordanian-Qatari feeling of distress about the current state of Arab affairs is shared by average Arabs. People have honest fears that this distress will continue; hence, we see Crown Prince Hasan's visit to Qatar, the hospitality accorded to him, and concern on the part of Amman and Doha to make the visit one step on a long road. All this confirms that awareness will eventually triumph over ignorance and apathy, that unity will leave behind all calls for division and fragmentation, and that efforts to rise over wounds will ultimately defeat all attempts to nurture and fester wounds.

Such efforts will hopefully overcome the crusades of those who look upon the Gulf crisis as proof of the inability to forge Arab solidarity, joint action, and unity. Instead, they should have concluded that the absence of unity, the lack of joint action, and disregard for solidarity opens the door for differences and conflicts, even for destructive inter-Arab wars.

By every standard, the Gulf crisis was a real catastrophe. In Jordan, we are well aware of this fact. Jordan, next only to Iraq and Kuwait, has been the most adversely affected by it. We were extremely committed to avert war. But, we failed, because parties hostile to this nation sought to push us into the trap and the abyss. They succeeded in their endeavor. So, here we are all—homeland, nation, and peoples—bleeding, suffering, and in pain.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's call for patience, endurance, and perseverance in addressing the effects of this crisis stems from his awareness of the depth and width of Arab wounds. It is hard to cure such wounds in a short time. However, what is important is that we all see the need for our recovery and dressing our wounds. Those who have not so far paid a direct price for the Gulf catastrophe—in its beginnings, or when the guns and missiles were being fired—will certainly pay a price if the effects of this catastrophe are left unaddressed, and if level-headed people do not come forward to show their full-fledged membership in the homeland, the nation, and the world in which we live, and demonstrate a strong awareness of the dangers that have befallen us, as well as the dangers posed to us. Such an effort on their part must aim to close ranks, turn over a new leaf, and allow the homeland to resume its march toward progress, unhampered by obstacles placed in its path by enemies and Arabs alike.

Finally, we would like to affirm that the Doha meeting is an example that must be emulated and enriched through quiet and hard work, patience, endurance, and perseverance, as his Highness Crown Prince Hasan has declared.

Special Office To Regulate Iraqi Exports Opened

JN1108083793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Aug 93 p 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The setting up of a special office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs to handle applications for U.N. permissions for exports to Iraq is aimed clearing confusion among business circles and maintaining a clear-cut, open-door approach to the sanctions against Iraq, officials and businessmen said Tuesday [10 August].

The establishment of the office also comes in line with Jordan's efforts to reinforce its enforcement of the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, they said.

There was no clear indication that setting up of a sole authority to deal with permissions for exports to Iraq was part of American- inspired U.N. measures that Jordan has to undertake to regulate the flow of goods to Iraq.

Washington, which accused Jordan of allowing "seepage" of contraband goods into Iraq in 1992, now says that it is satisfied with the measures undertaken by the Kingdom to enforce the sanctions.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, visiting Amman last week, appeared to go out of his way to emphasise the point when he told reporters after meeting

with His Majesty the King that he thanked the King "for the effective enforcement (of the sanctions)".

The new office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs, set up early this month, will accept all applications for permissions for Iraq-bound goods and forward them to Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N. In turn the U.N. envoy will forward the documents to the U.N. Sanctions Committee, which has the sole authority for approving or turning down applications.

"All applications for exports to Iraq of goods exempted under Article 20 of Resolution 587 will be handled by the office," said an official source. "But the office has no direct or indirect role in securing or refusing permission; it will act only as a clearing house."

The sanctions were imposed under U.N. Security Council Resolution 661, issued immediately after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. The resolution imposed a sweeping embargo on all trade with Iraq with no explicit or implicit exemptions.

Resolution 687, issued in April 1991 after an American-led Western-Arab military coalition ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, exempted food and medicine as well as immediately related items.

An advertisement released by the Ministry of Finance and Customs spelled out the basic responsibilities and tasks of the new office that will handle applications for U.N. permissions for export to Iraq.

"The office will receive applications from those wishing to export goods to Iraq that are (exempted from the sanctions)," it said.

All applications will be forwarded to the Jordanian representative's office at the U.N. in New York in one week of their receipt. In turn, the representative will present the applications to the U.N. Sanctions Committee for approval/rejection.

The response of the committee will be received by the representative's office and forwarded to the new office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs, which will in turn contact the applicants by phone, facsimile or mail, the advertisement said.

"The role of the office is limited to forwarding the applications to the permanent representative at the U.N. and receiving and issuing the permissions or rejections, to the concerned parties," it emphasised, adding that the office's services are offered free of cost.

In a clear bid to preempt the Kingdom's U.N. representative's office being flooded with follow-up inquiries, the advertisement said that "all further contacts during the period of applications are the responsibility of the office" at the Minsitry of Finance and Customs.

"No applications for goods that are not exempted under Article 20 of Resolution 687 will be entertained," said the official source.

"There has been a lot of confusion over who is responsible for what," with potential exporters approaching the Foreign Ministry and Jordan's U.N. office directly for permission.

"The office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs is the sole authority which is empowered to deal with the applications for U.N. permissions," affirmed the source.

According to local business circles, there had been repeated efforts by some to forge documents and try to get banned goods across the border but these were thwarted.

"One of the main items included in such efforts was automobile tyres, which fetch up to 300 per cent profit in the Iraqi market," said another source.

"Article 20 does not exempt automobile tyres per se, although there is a provision in it which excludes items [not] immediately related to the distribution of food and medicine."

"It is one of the ironies of the sanctions," said the source. "People need to have tyres for their vehicles to get around and distribute food and medicine, and as such they should be exempt from the sanctions. That is not the case."

Similarly, said the source, there are hundreds of items that the Iraqi people need and which could be classified as exempted from the sanctions since they involve, directly or indirectly, food needs.

"For instance, they need water pumps, agricultural implements, including tractors, but is is next to impossible to get the sanctions committee to grant approval for such items," he pointed out.

Political Alliance Deplores Decision To Dissolve Parliament

JN1008115793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] Amman—An alliance of several political parties in Jordan Monday [9 August] deplored a decision to dissolve Parliament, implying that the decision bore the marks of American and other forces oriented against the democratic process in the Kingdom.

A statement which was signed also by a large number of former deputies and other prominent personalities, also criticised any government moves to change or amend the present Election Law.

Following is the text of the statement:

The coalition of political forces aligned against surrender and capitulation is following with deep concern the implication behind the government's decision to dissolve the Parliament three months before its mandate was due to end according to provisions of the Jordanian Constitution. The decision to dissolve the Lower House of Parliament coincided with a wide scale campaign

aimed at paving the ground for a new Election Law and coupled with signs of satisfaction over these developments displayed by certain American circles.

In light of this situation, many people are haunted by increasing fears that the measures are being carried out to fulfill the desires of foreign and other Arab circles which have made no secret of their fears from the Jordanian democratisation process.

Acting from our deep conviction that the Constitution should remain the only source of all powers, we hereby join the majority of Jordanians in voicing our opposition to the dissolution of Parliament for the following reasons:

First—There should not be any vacuum in authority. Should the Executive Authority resign or be relieved of duty, it is normally requested to continue in office until a new government has been formed to take its place so that no vacuum is created. Should the post of the head of state become vacant for any reason, it is normally filled immediately because state authority accepts no vacuum by nature. On the contrary, the Legislative Authority should remain in office until the results of the following parliamentary elections have appeared.

Second—According to norms, the Lower House is dissolved when it becomes impossible for it to cooperate with the Executive Authority and this is done for the sake of averting any paralysis in the state function. In this case, Parliament and the government are dissolved to pave the ground for a provisional government to supervise the next parliamentary elections. Never before in the history of this country was Parliament dissolved before its mandate has been completed unless there was a collision between the executive and the legislative authorities and there was no room for them to work on a common understanding.

Third—The remaining period in the life of the Lower House of Parliament was not a short one especially in view of the critical stage our region is going through and in the light of circumstances whose results no one is able to predict. It would have been better for a country to confront future eventualities with a Lower House of Parliament which can help deal with developments. We would like to recall a move by the government in 1984 when it had to seek a royal decree to call the dissolved Parliament to convene to endorse a constitutional amendment, following which the house was dissolved again.

In conclusion, we had hoped that the government would take steps towards preparing for the parliamentary elections and not to pounce on the democratic process, which had effectively contributed towards reflecting the cultural image of Jordan in the Arab region, causing it to regress.

Since the government has failed to listen to advice, it is now called upon to conduct parliamentary elections in accordance with the existing Election Law and not according to a temporary law which is not backed by any provision in the Constitution which the government had vowed to uphold and respect.

The statement was signed by the following:

The Muslim Brotherhood Movement, the Islamic Action Front, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, the Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, the Arab Avant-guarde Movement, the Progressive Democratic Nationalists, the Socialist Nationalists in Jordan, the National Action Party and a large number of Parliament deputies and well-known political personalities. [only first, second and fourth groups are recognizable officially-licensed parties]

Natural Resources Authority Responds to Oil Report

JN1008153293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] In response to a report we published in yesterday's edition, we have received the following reaction from the acting director general of the Natural Resources Authority. We are hereby publishing his reaction without any comment.

The esteemed newspaper AL-RA'Y;

The Responsible Chief Editor;

With reference to what was published on page 1 of your esteemed newspaper, edition 8,394, on Monday, 9 August 1993, under the headline "Discovery of New Oil Well," I would like to inform you of the following:

1. The source quoted in the statement was neither responsible nor authorized to make such a statement.

2. The information contained in the news report is incorrect.

3. The truth is the Natural Resources Authority is drilling an oil well in the Dead Sea area and that work is still under way at the site.

I would be grateful to the responsible chief editor if this clarification is published on the same page and in the same column in which the aforementioned news report was published.

Please accept my best regards.

[signed] Engineer Muhammad Abu-'Ajamiyah, acting director general of the Natural Resources Authority

Central Bank Head: 'No Intention' To Devalue Dinar

JN1108093593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Aug 93 pp 1,10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ziyad al-Shillah]

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has no intention whatsoever to devaluate the Jordanian dinar, CBJ Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi said Tuesday [10 August].

Addressing a press conference held at the CBJ, Dr. al-Nabulsi said that the CBJ's duty was to protect the Jordanian currency and ensure currency stability and provide protection for the Jordanian banks.

At the same time, Dr. al-Nabulsi said, the CBJ does not interfere in the way Jordanian banks invest their funds. "But it is our concern to ensure that the depositors' money is safe and that the banks continue to cater to the financial needs of the economic sectors of Jordan," he said.

Dr. al-Nabulsi said the CBJ had nothing to do with the operations of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and was not influencing the stock market.

Dr. al-Nabulsi accused unnamed moneychangers of spreading ill-founded rumours that the CBJ was planning to devaluate the dinar.

"The Jordanian economy is robust and the CBJ has sufficient foreign currency reserves to deal with the foreign debts and the deficit in the fiscal budget," Dr. al-Nabulsi said. "There is no justification for any devaluation."

The CBJ has no plans for interfering in the commercial banks' activities because such moves would only have negative consequences, he said.

Jordan's foreign debt, Dr. al-Nabulsi said, was the main concern of the CBJ over the past three months during which the CBJ was involved in issues related to negotiations with the London Club of commercial creditors.

He noted that an agreement was reached with the London Club two months ago on steps to be taken to deal with the foreign debts and an official CBJ team was leaving Tuesday for London to finalise a technical agreement in this matter.

Expressing hope that the negotiations would run smoothly, Dr. al-Nabulsi said he expected the whole deal to be completed before the end of this year.

Dr. al-Nabulsi said the agreement in principle for rescheduling covers $740 million in principal and $150 million in interest.

"Jordan plans to convert these debts into nominal bonds or discount bonds to be paid over 30 years and buy back part of the debts," he said.

Any agreement on the bonds will be guaranteed by Jordanian holdings in American treasury bonds, he said.

The CBJ expects to buy bonds worth $80 million at the going interest rate, and the total amount of interest to be paid on them will be between $40 million and $50 million.

Referring to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the World Bank, Dr. al-Nabulsi said that one phase of the programme was extended until February 1994 because certain measures, like the imposition of the sales tax, have not been taken yet.

The new government, Dr. al-Nabulsi noted, has taken a series of measures to adjust the consumer tax, and some points remain to be agreed on with the IMF.

Referring to the volume of credit offered by banks in Jordan, Dr. al-Nabulsi said that certain banks had been violating credit regulations.

He said the CBJ was holding dialogues with the commercial banks and helping them to wisely invest their deposits.

Dr. al-Nabulsi denied that he intended to resign.

"I have not expressed a desire to resign my post," he said. "But I expressed my desire to move away from the atmosphere of work after May 1994, when my mandate ends for purely health reasons because I need some rest."

Book Dealing With 1989 Food Riots Confiscated

JN1108091593 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 11 Aug 93 p 7

[From the "Happening Now" column]

[Text] AL-UFUQ has acquired a copy of the book "The April Reality—the Event and the Aspirations," which security organs confiscated after storming a number of homes in al-Karak last week. The book relates the events of the April 1989 uprising [in southern Jordan], and all statements and documents released at the time, in addition to names of those arrested.

Al-Hariri Addresses Arab Labor Unions Central Council

NC1008181193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri delivered to the 10th extraordinary session of the Arab Labor Unions Central Council, held at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut on 10 August "to boost the Lebanese workers' and people's steadfastness against aggression"—recorded]

[Text] Gentlemen, I welcome you as you meet to express solidarity with Lebanon, its people, and workers. I welcome your efforts for the sake of Lebanon, its unity, and revival. You are rolling up your sleeves to record, along with the Lebanese people, a glorious chapter of Arab solidarity against aggression and its consequences. You are showing solidarity to defend the progress of liberation, national accord, and reconstruction to which Lebanon has committed itself with its brothers' backing.

Brothers, you are holding an extraordinary meeting to discuss issues which, actually, are not extraordinary at all. Israeli aggression against our country is not anything new: It has not let up for many years. It has been an aggression against our land, sovereignty, people, future, and national resolve. This good resolve expresses our national decision to end internal wars, set the process of reconstruction in motion, and emerge from the tunnel in which we have been kept for a long time and which we are now determined to leave with the help of our national accord, unity, solidarity, and confidence in our homeland and future.

The wager on internal divisions has not achieved its objectives. Lebanon united in rejecting and denouncing the aggression, handling its consequences, and mobilizing all political and popular energies to succor our afflicted people in the south and western al-Biqa'. Our social and economic prowess and the responsible conduct of all concerned officials and citizens prove that our national unity has been stronger than the aggression and that the Lebanese people's rallying round their state and institutions was not merely a response to the objectives but was a boost to the process of national accord, unity, liberation, and reconstruction that Israel sought to undermine. These are not mere slogans. We are emphasizing a political national fact that the Israeli aggression could not deny and which, we believe, it cannot infiltrate.

Brothers, friends: We announced before that Lebanon has refused in the past and refuses now, more than ever, to be used as a means of exerting pressure on Syria or influencing its role. The future of Lebanese peace is intimately linked with the future of the special relationship with Syria. Any attempt to undermine this relationship will carry within itself the seeds of undermining Lebanon's domestic peace and will certainly be rejected. We reject it just as we reject occupation and aggression.

No pressures can force us to abandon inter-Arab solidarity or our commitment to its requirements. We believe Damascus is the backbone of this solidarity and the party without which Arab unity will be subject to annihilation. We joined the peace negotiations on the basis of this solidarity. On its basis we will continue to coordinate and cooperate, chiefly with Syria, but also with the other Arab brothers. With such cooperation and coordination we will continue to participate in the peace process until we can liberate our land and establish our full sovereignty over all Lebanese territories.

We have repeatedly asserted that we are seeking peace and that, indeed, we wish to help build it. We have refused all actions that disregard the need to preserve the homeland's supreme interest and unity.

The real reason behind what happened in the south lies in the Israeli occupation of a part of our country. Resistance to this occupation is merely the result. All those who say otherwise must stop these claims. When Israel withdraws, there will be no justification for the presence of any weapons other than those of the army, which will defend the borders of the homeland and confront any attack on its security and stability.

The decision to deploy the army in the south confirms our determination to continue to shoulder our full responsibilities toward expanding deployment and liberating the occupied territories. It is essential to point out here that the Lebanese Army will fully defend itself as it did two weeks ago in the face of any aggression targeting it. The orders issued to the army are clear. They are: defense, steadfastness, and confrontation of the enemy.

Dear brothers, the Arabs affirmed last week in Damascus the revival of their solidarity. The resolutions issued by the Arab foreign ministers in Damascus to provide moral and material support were the best proof of this. We in Lebanon continue to count on the fact that this solidarity is what will motivate everyone to implement their pledges so that the Lebanese Government is able to perform its duties toward our people in the south and the al-Biqa' al-Gharbi, and toward the Lebanese military institutions. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Arab and friendly governments and organizations that have contributed toward decreasing the burdens and human and social problems created by the Israeli aggression.

Dear brothers, during your meeting here on Lebanese land at the invitation of the General Labor Federation, which faithfully expresses the wishes and hopes of Lebanon's workers, I ask you to take a united stand to prevent Israel from achieving its goal of uprooting our people from their land. Let your hands join the hands of Lebanon's workers to rebuild what was destroyed and help our people in the south and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi to cling to their land.

The march of reconstruction and growth will not stop. It will continue according to plan. The process of equipping the Lebanese Army will move strongly toward enabling it to perform its national role and bear its responsibilities to protect the homeland and citizens. Behind this destruction left by the aggression, we see

only a national will clinging to the desire to reconstruct. The aggression will never stop us from continuing this march. It will not deter us from continuing what we have achieved so far to rehabilitate institutions and public services. We will not stop working. We will not stop rebuilding Lebanon. We will continue to confront the challenge and will not lose hope. We will prove, no matter how difficult it gets, that this homeland is deserving of a life, progress, and a future. Raise your voices in unison with us. Tell everyone that the Lebanese desire to live will not be crushed and that the unity of Lebanon will not be shattered. Tell them that this country has a people that believe in their history and future. May you live long. Long live Lebanon.

Hizballah's Fadlallah on Israel's 'Flexible Strategy'

NC1108070093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 93 p 3

[Interview with Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's "spiritual guide," by Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad, in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ahmad] We can only begin our dialogue with you by discussing current events in Lebanon and the Arab world. What is your definitive assessment of the causes and results of the Israeli attack on Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] A study of Israeli actions since Israel's establishment shows that they proceed from a flexible strategy that seeks and uses local, regional, and international changes to implement strategic objectives. As we have seen, Israel occasionally creates new facts to keep the region occupied with details and distracted from its principles. These new facts are designed to shake up the political situation in a major way and cause regional and international politicians to be occupied with the new details. Additionally the United States has constantly sought, through its strategic alliance with Israel, to turn Israeli conditions in the direction of those issues that concern U.S. policy in the region. These issues include Israeli security, confusion of the Arab situation, and confrontation of trends opposed to U.S. policy, both nationalist and Islamist. The United States then produces a new lexicon of terms by which it tries to discredit those trends on the regional level.

Based on our examination of the first point above, we have discovered that Israeli plans are laid long before their actual implementation, sometimes decades before. The plan is put into operation when a particular incident that can serve as its cause occurs. We noticed this in its 1978 and 1982 invasions when it used an incident like the attempted assassination of the Israeli ambassador in London to wage a ferocious war. Now when we examine this new war Israel has launched against Lebanon, we notice that Israel was facing a multisided predicament illustrated by the following conditions: It was having difficulties with the Islamic Resistance, which had inflicted several defeats on it, thus adversely affecting the morale of its puppet army in the border area (the South Lebanese Army) whose members, including several major agents, were falling under the Muslim mujahidin's painful blows; the current Israeli Government was losing credibility in the eyes of the opposition; and finally, Israel was facing a deadlock in the negotiations caused by its own intransigence and the fact that it was not possible for the Palestinians and Israelis [as published] to make any further concessions. U.S. pressure on the Arabs was therefore not practical. Perhaps Israel felt that U.S. pressure would be exerted on it because the United States had a vital interest in promoting an Arab-Israeli peace: If it did not succeed in this, it would not succeed anywhere else, but if it succeeded in this plan, it would reap success in several other places in the world. We noticed this during the Gulf war when the U.S. victory enabled the United States to move on the international scene in the manner of someone who had won a world war. Apparently the Middle East represents the world's area of political balance, and it is probable that the United States was beginning to exert some pressure on Israel, while of course continuing to defend its security. In view of all the foregoing, Israel saw it was time to implement a ready-made plan to destroy the infrastructure of south Lebanon and al-Biqa', the areas where the resistance operates. It wanted to confuse the resistance and incite the public, the Army, and the Lebanese Government against it and make them blame it for the consequences. This is because a person does not examine the profound causes of his suffering but looks around for superficial causes. Oppressed nations usually blame the victim instead of the culprit because the latter is usually strong. People find it easier to blame the weak for the trouble that he causes them during his struggle with the strong. Israel believed it could confuse conditions in Lebanon to achieve this objective and also exert pressure on Lebanon to force it to make concessions in the negotiations. Israel always sought to involve Lebanon in military negotiations, but Lebanon always insisted on negotiating only on an Israeli withdrawal.

There is a third objective: Sending a message containing an implicit threat to Syria to bring pressure to bear on Lebanon during the negotiations.

On the other hand, the United States, which had difficulty in pressuring Israel, tried to create a status quo in the region so that it could initiate a new move and pressure Syria and Lebanon. This new status quo, according to the United States, could invoke new realities and a new policy.

Hence, we discovered that the United States supported the Israeli operation, and at the same time, pressured Europe and Russia. This was obvious from their talk—holding the mujahidin responsible for this war and considering Israel the victim that was defending itself.

Therefore, we consider the new Israeli war a U.S. war in the full sense of the word far from the known slogans. It's a world war as far as its implications are concerned, but an Israeli war as far as the execution and form are

concerned. This is because the world stood behind Israel. I do not rule out that certain Arab countries that acted as Israel's godfather and full partner pressured the Arabs, specifically Lebanon. We have some information that some of these countries had prior knowledge of the operation and gave Israel the green light.

However, we hold the view that Israel's political plan did not succeed because it failed to foment sedition in Lebanon. The Lebanese people—opponents, proponents, Christians, Muslims, Government, and Army—were united against this Israeli aggression. The displacement of the Lebanese people failed to turn the evacuees into a time bomb against the mujahidin or against the Lebanese Government. Hence, the Israeli plan failed.

The United States was embarrassed with this kind of development. The U.S. language started to differ from that used at the start of the war. The United States expected a great success in order to play its game. But the issue was an utter failure. It is quite possible for the United States to cooperate with some Arab countries and Israel to complicate and disrupt the situation when such issues are dealt with behind the scenes, in political games, and when conditions and counterconditions are presented. But I believe that the current stage in the region does not condone any U.S. or Israeli victory. It is possible for the United States to initiate a cease-fire and to suggest that Israel has scored a victory, because the mujahidin agreed to halt firing Katyusha rockets at the northern part of Palestine in return for a halt of the Israeli bombardment.

In fact it was not a victory for either Israel or the United States because the mujahidin have often declared that they do not carry out their jihad by firing Katyushas. Rather, they say that they perform their jihad by conducting a face-to-face confrontation with the Israeli soldier. However, firing Katyushas is a reaction to attacking civilians. The mujahidin had to fire the rockets when the Israeli shelling of civilians had reached an intolerable limit.

I recall that the enemy's prime minister had once told his Jewish citizens that the Islamic Resistance fires rockets only in response to our shelling. I believe that this talk is registered in all the political archives.

We believe that this war will confuse the Israeli reality inside Israel because it failed to achieve anything, just as Israel's previous wars against Lebanon have failed to attain any objective. These wars have produced many negative results instead.

[Ahmad] The war will stop temporarily, but the number of displaced people has reached 500,000. How do you view the repercussions of this situation on Lebanon's social and political stability? And will this issue affect Hizballah's jihad credibility?

[Fadlallah] It is natural that the plan behind the displacement of the people and the destruction is to turn those displaced people into a time bomb in the face of the state. The state—government and Army—will in turn explode in the face of the Islamic Resistance. Israel has not concealed its motives behind the plan. However, I believe that the state in not in the likely position to accomplish this objective because what this implies is the flare up of the civil war once again, which could be more dangerous than the war Israel imposed on Lebanon. The wise men among the government understand this point well. We also believe that the Syrian role is important. As for the Lebanese people, they have bottled up their pain and wounds and understood the Israeli game. So far, we have not heard any negative reaction to the resistance from the displaced people. Most of their reactions were against Israel. The Israeli prime minister stupidly announced that they were carrying out the aggression to put pressure on the Lebanese people and government to make them stop the Islamic Resistance. They behaved like someone who sets a temple on fire to light a cigarette. They committed a crime of destruction so the people would demonstrate in protest. This is something no self-respecting or humanity-respecting human being can accept. Therefore, Israel has helped us to alert the people to its dangers and belligerence, which have reached the point where Israel shows no respect for the conscience of mankind.

[Ahmad] On the same subject, the Israeli aggression on the south, Western media have persisted in their claims that Iran has a military presence in the south. Is this true? We would also like to ask: Is the resistance in the south purely Islamic? If so, why?

[Fadlallah] The Islamic Resistance in the south was not launched from sectarian thinking at the outset. It did not try to monopolize the resistance. It used to call for uniting all resistance activities into joint operations. The problem is that many do not wish to resist, and some of those who used to participate in resistance activities withdrew from the resistance arena for personal or subjective reasons. Therefore, when resistance began to be represented fully by Hizballah, it did not proceed from a need for existence, but from the nature of the reality imposed upon it as a result of the withdrawal of the other resistance elements, which disappeared completely or are operating merely out of shame and embarrassment only to record their stands. As for the Iranians, I can safely confirm here with full authority that ever since the Iranian Revolutionary Guards entered Lebanon, they have not fired a single bullet at Israel from the south. The Iranians have not fought as a resistance force. They have not integrated with Hizballah in the confrontational arenas. Their role has been one of moral, literary, and cultural support as well as to offer training. I would like to affirm once again that there is no such thing as the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in Lebanon. There are only some individuals who have a special political, cultural, or diplomatic status. They have no military presence, as Western and some Arab media report. The Arab media in particular, are trying to normalize relations with the Israeli enemy.

I challenge anyone who writes things like this to present a single piece of evidence or one witness proving the presence of Iranians in the south.

[Ahmad] Your Eminence, with the Israeli shelling echoing overhead, what about the Arab-Israeli negotiations? Would it be better to stop or break them now? And what about Lebanon's role in these negotiations?

[Fadlallah] As Islamists, out of principle we do not believe the Israeli presence is legitimate. We have always maintained that even if the Jews were to convert to Islam, we would tell them to get out of Palestine. One Muslim cannot spend another Muslim's money unless the latter allows him to. Therefore, the issue according to our thinking—we the extremists as they like to label us—is that we reject the issue in part and parcel because Palestine is not a Jewish land and the Jews were a small minority there, alongside the Muslims and Christians. As a result of the Jewish immigration and the international conspiracy, they became a majority. For those who like to classify us as extremists, I would like to present the following case: Someone occupies your house and you have problems with him. He then turns round and asks you to reconcile with him while he is in your house with the intention of staying there. He asks you to become friends with him. Would your refusal to reconcile with him be considered extremism or would it be realistic?

Some claim that there is realism in the negotiations since they proceed from the basis of land for peace. But which land are they talking about? What percentage of Palestine do the West Bank and Gaza Strip represent? This means that the Arabs, even those who have not reconciled with Israel, have recognized that pre-1967 Palestine, that is 1948 Palestine, has become Israeli. Therefore, I believe that the issue is not one of extremism but realism. We reject the existing status quo, because if we accept it, when the balance of power tips in favor of those with designs on our land, they will impose a new status quo on us and we will have to go to the desert.

Therefore, on principle, we reject the negotiations. We are thereby thinking in the realistic Israeli way. The Jews kept Palestine alive in their minds for 2,000 years and finally got there. For 1,000 years, we will keep the memory of Palestine alive and will finally get there. If we are extremists, then Jewish extremism has proven it is realistic. We can prove the realistic aspect of our extremism because our extremism is not Jewish and we can benefit from that in our actions.

If we want greater realism than this, then I advise all the Arabs not to continue negotiations for one simple reason. This reason is that the Arabs do not have any strong cards to play. The Arab situation now is one where economic, military, and political reality are absent. The United States and Israel are dealing with the Arabs as though they were all defeated in the Gulf war, even those who sent their armies to fight or monitor. Therefore, the defeated party cannot impose any conditions. It has to make concessions. This is why the United States is putting pressure on the Arabs to make concessions. It is trying to make use of some Arabs by asking them put pressure on other Arabs to make concessions, be they the ones with diplomatic relations with Israel or the ones with money. Therefore, we find that the Israeli proposal on the question of Palestine does not allow anything more than municipal government in which the Palestinians will not be responsible for anything other than their health and administrative affairs, without having an army, a police force, a foreign policy, a policy on waters, or similar things. Jerusalem will also be excluded from these negotiations. The world will forget the Palestinians and the question of Palestine completely if the Palestinians continue these negotiations because neither they nor the Arabs hold any pressure cards.

Therefore, I accuse the Arabs of being unrealistic because there is no meaning to reconciliation or negotiation if it strips the Palestinians even of the illusion of a pressure card. Therefore, even if we would like to agree to the principle of negotiations, we do not believe that now, irrespective of events in Lebanon, is the appropriate time for negotiations. When you negotiate, you must have some cards you can deal to confront the opposing cards, just like the game of political guarantees. So on principle, I believe the Arabs should not negotiate. We noticed during the Madrid conference that the Arabs were not allowed to be represented in one delegation. The Arab League was not allowed to attend as an observer. And the Palestinians were not allowed to represent themselves in an independent delegation, which means they do not have an independent identity. The point is that there are some Arab countries that might be allowed to meet to coordinate their stand but would not be allowed to unite. I mourn the death of the Arab world because the next American game is to occupy the Arab world by forming small groupings, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, and perhaps even fragment these groups so that each Arab country, if not divided internally, will think of its personal interests without caring about the interests of the other Arab countries.

We believe Lebanon's dignity should prevent it from returning to the negotiations after this fierce aggression, especially since we used to tell Lebanon that it has no interest in the negotiations because they are based on Resolutions 242 and 338, which were issued when Lebanon was not an occupied country. It was occupied after that. Lebanon has Resolution 425 which, backed by international consensus, calls on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

[Ahmad] The issue of the deportees has disappeared from the list of Arab concerns and lost its importance due to the recent events, that is as a result of the Israeli aggression, the negotiations, and Arab incompetence. How do you address this issue? And what forms of support do you as Islamists give the deportees?

[Fadlallah] I feel for the deportees from the bottom of my heart. We as Islamists have sensed our duty toward

them. We have embraced them, supported them, and provided them with all forms of help they needed. I believe that they understood that the Islamists were the ones who seriously felt with them in their cause. We feel their presence among us. However, we believe that Israel created the issue of the deportees to distract people from the principle issue, just as it has done before during various stages of the conflict. It distracted people from the problem, just as it did in 1948 when it distracted people from the deportees and from all the Palestinian people who were deported from their land. The Arab world began to talk and work. Then, some Arabs began to minimize the importance of the problem and talk about promises, and everyone forgot the issue after the Palestine question played its role in distracting the Arabs.

According to American political thinking, the Arabs are a people who love promises and succumb to them. Therefore, I believe that this issue has died and become just another minor detail of the many details plaguing the Palestinian tragedy.

Irish Minister Departs; Supports Army Deployment

NC1008121093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Ireland expressed support for the Army deployment in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] area of operation, Noel Dempsey, Irish minister for defense affairs, said. He left Beirut today after inspecting the Irish contingent operating within UNIFIL and holding a series of talks with Lebanese officials.

Afghanistan

Kabul City Attacked By Islamic Forces 10 Aug

Two Killed in Strike on Ward 4

LD1008145193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Ward 4 of Kabul city was hit by two missiles today. As a result, two people were martyred.

Quoting a responsible source of Kabul garrison command, a military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reported that the missiles were fired from the south, from areas under the control of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. Two people were martyred and property was damaged when one missile hit a health clinic.

1 Killed, School Destroyed in Ward 7

LD1008160493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] According to a report, forces of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan this morning fired heavy weapons at the positions of the Islamic State army and on some residential areas of Ward 7. As a result, one person was martyred and another injured. Habibia Lycee also burned down.

Bangladesh

Goods Worth $113 Million Exported From EPZ

BK1008152393 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Goods worth more than $113 million were exported from the Export Processing Zone [EPZ] of the country during the last fiscal year. This income is 63.43 percent more than the amount earned from exports during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. It may be mentioned that during the fiscal year 1991-92, the EPZ earned $67.5 million from the export of goods. The items exported from the EPZ included ready-made garments, hosiery products, textiles, artificial flowers, shoes, video-cassettes, electronics and leather goods.

India

Election Commission To Rescind Postponement Order

BK1008125393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] The Election Commission [EC] has agreed to withdraw its order postponing all elections and by-elections. According to PTI, the Commission's stand was conveyed to a division bench of the Supreme Court headed by the chief justice, Mr. M.N. Venkatachaliah, when a writ petition moved by the EC came up for hearing today. Admitting the petition, the Supreme Court stayed all orders of the Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras high courts. The EC in its petition sought a declaration regarding the nature and scope of its jurisdiction in discharging its constitutional functions regarding elections.

Further on Decision

BK1008162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] The Election Commission [EC] has decided to allow counting of votes in the Poona local bodies constituency by-election to Maharashtra Legislative Council before Tuesday [17 August]. It has also decided to conduct all elections and by-elections which were postponed by its 2 August order, except in Tamil Nadu. Announcing this at a press conference in New Delhi today, the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, said separate notifications for these elections will be issued tonight or tomorrow. He said the elections will be held before the 10th of next month. Regarding Tamil Nadu, the commission stuck to its original stand that it will conduct the by-elections only when central police forces are deployed to its satisfaction in the Palani Lok Sabha and Ranipet assembly constituencies.

With today's decision, the way is clear for conducting biennial elections to Rajya Sabha for six seats from West Bengal and two seats from Gujarat. It also covers by-elections to Ottappalam Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala; Kurseong, Chowringhee, and Darjeeling assembly constituencies in West Bengal; and one legislative council by-election in Bihar. The EC's decision follows an assurance given to the Supreme Court to reconsider its order postponing all elections. The commission's stand was conveyed to a division bench headed by the chief justice, Mr. M.N. Venkatachaliah, while hearing a writ petition moved by the commission. The Supreme Court admitted the petition and stayed all orders of the Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras high courts. The EC in its petition sought a declaration by the apex court regarding the commission's powers to determine the quantity of staff, to ask for a particular officer for election duties, and to request for the deployment of police forces.

Replying to a question, the chief election commissioner said the commission will move the Supreme Court for interlocutory orders, if necessary, before conducting the pending by-elections, for which no notification was issued earlier for assembly elections in the states which are under president's rule. With this decision, the uncertainty over the by-election to Maharashtra Legislative Council from Poona local bodies constituency—from where the chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, is seeking election—is removed. Mr. Pawar is required to be elected to either house of the state legislature before the 6th of month to continue in his office. It may be recalled that Mr. Pawar moved the Bombay High Court against the EC's decision to postpone all elections and secured a

stay on the night of the 2nd of August. The voting was held the next day as per schedule.

Parties React To Decision

BK1108092493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The left parties have described yesterday's Election Commission's order on holding by-elections on the 10th of next month, except in Tamil Nadu, as a result of an understanding and connivance between the center and the Election Commission. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said in New Delhi today that there is no consistency in the modified order as the Commission has refused to hold elections in Tamil Nadu while it has reconciled on the legislative council election involving the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar. Echoing the same sentiments, the CPI national secretary, Mr. M. Farooqi, accused the center and the election commission of subverting the normal election process by forging an understanding.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgill, in his reaction said all is well that ends well.

The Janta Dal spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said with the exclusion of Tamil Nadu, the chief election commissioner [CEC] has shown his bias and arbitrariness, which, he said, is not becoming of the high office of the CEC.

Minister on Madras Blast: Security 'Under Control'

BK1008155193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] The government today asserted in the Lok Sabha that the security situation is fully under control. Rejecting the opposition charge, the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said the Sunday [8 August] bomb explosion at the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] headquarters in Madras cannot be compared with the Bombay bomb blasts. He said though explosive experts are yet to determine the nature of the explosion, RDX [Research Department Explosive] explosives did not appear to have been used. Mr. Pilot expressed the view that Tamil Nadu police can efficiently investigate the case and said the center will reconsider the demand for a CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] probe if preliminary investigations revealed wider ramifications. The minister stated that the state police personnel were guarding the RSS office till during the ban on the organization was enforced. [sentence as heard] He told that the state government has said that the RSS office-bearers did not allow police guard after the revocation of the ban. Mr. Pilot informed the members that the center has directed all the state governments to deal firmly with antinational elements.

Punjab 'Militant' Responsible for 200 Murders Killed

BK1108052893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] In Punjab, a hard-core militant belonging to the so-called Babbar Khalsa, Deedar Singh Amargarh alias Dari, was killed in an encounter in Fatehgarh Saheb district yesterday. He was responsible for 200 killings. Two CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel were also killed in the encounter. Deedar Singh was carrying a reward of 5 lakh rupees. Elsewhere in the state, four militants have been killed during the last 24 hours.

Panelists Discuss Pakistani Nuclear Status

BK0908140593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Panel discussion with former Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey, Air Commodore Jasjit Singh of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis, and Professor S. Zubairi of Jawaharlal Nehru University, moderated by S. Nihal Singh; from the "Current Affairs Program," date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nihal Singh] Good evening. The subject before us today is hardly new in the sense that the world and we in India have been talking about it over a period of time—the question of Pakistan's nuclear capability or capabilities. I think it is very important to make a distinction between the actual capability such as they have, which Pakistan has in the nuclear field, and the question of their official statements saying whether they have the capability or they don't. Recently, Pakistani spokesmen have again said that they have the capability to make a bomb. They stopped just short of saying that they have a bomb in the basement. But, of course, the interesting point is that India has never said that it has the capability to build a bomb. And here is one issue, I think, that needs to be discussed. And the other is the actual nature of Pakistan's capabilities in the nuclear field because we have various reports usually coming out of American experts, and sometimes it seems to me that they are timed for political effect in relation to India or in relation to influencing Indian policies on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT, or in other respects in concerning security. Muchkund, I would like to start with you because you have been head of the Indian foreign service and you have dealt with Pakistan at very close range in various fields. What is your assessment?

[Muchkund] Now, I think that the Pakistani leaders and senior civil servants have admitted that they not only have the capability but also they can assemble a device at the shortest possible notice. And, there are experts who believe that they have devices, a few of them, but in any case they acquired what has now come to be known as a (?known weapon) deterrence and India has to take necessary actions in response to that. And, I would say that this does open a window of vulnerability for us because of particular situation of India and Pakistan. If

Pakistan has a nuclear device then the temptation to use as a preemptive measure would be very great.

[Nihal Singh] Jasjit, if I may come to you, are we vulnerable and how vulnerable are we, or do we pretend to be vulnerable?

[Jasjit] Well, I don't think it is a question of vulnerability here. Before Pakistan can actually translate this capability into a threat, a lot of things will happen. Some of them are happening, like the Kashmir crisis, and the Pakistani side is constantly linking up the Kashmir issue with the nuclear issue. But I think the point we should make is that there is no way that Pakistan's current status or capability cannot be.... [pauses] I mean it has to be taken into account in any thinking that we bring in mind, whether political, diplomatic, or military. We cannot ignore this as this has been the situation for many years now. This is not the first time they are saying so. They have had a problem in the sense that Pakistan needed a method by which to create a credibility in their nuclear weapon posture. They couldn't have done the test, and if the Indians don't believe that they have the weapon, it is not of very much use. So the efforts have been constantly to let out or say something, partly backtrack, move a step forward, keep linking it up so that they pay the minimum cost and yet achieve a credibility which I think have achieved for a number of years now.

[Nihal Singh] Professor Zubairi, do you think we are right in maintaining certain ambiguities, shall we say, on nuclear capabilites and postures?

[Zubairi] Well, before I respond to your question I would like to make one comment about Pakistani assertions about their capability. We had the scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan, who had been boasting about enrichment for a number of years. General Zia made several times, he made comments about the capability. Then in the last few years, there has been one interesting pattern. The Pakistani foreign secretary, Shaharyar Khan, made this comment in Washington while he was there. That is an important point. Then, recently General Aslam Beg, the former chief of staff, on his return from Washington in London, he made a statement about the Pakistani capability and now we have the Pakistani interim prime minister, again on return from Washington, making this statement. Now, is there some pattern in this, I don't know. The other point you made is that ambiguity, I think you know we maintain that there is an ambiguity. But so far as the literarture on the subject is concerned, most of the experts are saying that both countries have this capability. For instance, SIPRI [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute] published a volume called World Inventory of Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium early this year, and that is a very detailed analysis of the capabilities of various countries. And according to that volume India has sufficient unsafeguarded weapons-grade plutonium enough by 1991, enough for about 60 nuclear weapons and Pakistan has highly enriched uranium, weapons-grade uranium, by the end of 1991 for about six to 12 or 10 weapons. Now, then you have other experts, you know, for instance, Leonard Specter. He has said that both countries have crossed their threshold. Recently, McGeorge Bundy—scientific advisor to President Kennedy, a very highly prestigious person in this field—in an article in FOREIGN AFFAIRS he has also admitted that both India and Pakistan have the capability, and for practical purposes they should be taken into account as nuclear weapon powers. So, here you have an interesting situation for various reasons—domestic and external—neither country is in a position to admit openly. But even with regard to India and Pakistan, Pakistani spokesmen have been more forthright in making these statements while we are the only country—if you look at India, Israel, and Pakistan—we are the only country which is saying we do not produce nuclear weapons.

[Nihal Singh] Muchkund, I think the professor has raised an interesting point about these statements either being made in Washington by Pakistanis or on their return from Washington. And also, as I have mentioned earlier, there is a stream of reports periodically from American experts about Pakistan's nuclear capabilities. Do you think this is a diplomatic game being played by Washington to achieve X number of purposes?

[Muchkund] Yes, I think that it has a number of purposes and, well, obvious one would be that they want the United States to equate India and Pakistan and not to apply the Pressler Amendment only to Pakistan. And, similarly on other issues relating to nuclear weapons, they want the United States to take initiative in this respect. The other thing, of course, is that this helps them in projecting their image—both in the region as well as domestically to their own people.

[Nihal Singh] Jasjit, if I might come to you. What do you think is the consequence of this on the overall security aspects as far as we and Pakistan are concerned, or we vis-a-vis Pakistan?

[Jasjit] First, the obvious is that what many Americans have been saying now for some time, that this is a postproliferation stage. This is no longer a question of dealing with it as a preproliferation stage, which basically means that to cross certain levels of capabilities in Pakistan, where even the rolling back is not going to be an easy process nor can be easily verifiable,—and that is what the problem is—that the search for the so-called nuclear restraint in the current U.S. policies of tapping, reducing, and then eliminating. [sentence as heard] Now, it is all very well to draft it out. It looks very neat and comfortable, but in practice it will have many, many problems even in starting off. The difficulty here is just this that both Pakistan for its own reasons and the United States for its own reasons are trying to create this India-Pakistan linkage, which, I think, basically works against the Indian interest. There are two realities here. One, is the simple reality that Pakistan is a nuclear state today. It has declared itself more or less that way and, therefore, that has been taken into calculation in all your political, diplomatic, security calculations. The second

is, that doesn't really answer any of India's basic issues of security because of the Chinese factor. But, by emphasizing the Pakistan linkage, it, in fact, reduces or tries to reduce the basic Indian problem where the Indian security calculus, if it remains centered in relations to China or the global proliferation in existence of nuclear weapons, Pakistan would be automatically taken care of.

[Nihal Singh] Professor, Do you think that we are doing the right thing at the moment in terms of our diploamtic postures?

[Zubairi] Well, there is a criticism within India and outside on this issue. Some people are saying that we are reiterating our former positions without coming forward with new ideas. I don't think that by itself reiteration of a principled position is wrong even if it doesn't suit the interests of other countries. We have to take into account the fact that now there are certain vulnerabilities, you know, in the economic spheres. We should not do anything which may incur serious international repercussions and that is why, I think, our policy has been rather more, even more toned down now. So, I don't that it is wrong for India to maintain its posture as it has so far. For one reason, it is suggested by the critics of the policy that why should we not go into high-powered conference, why should we not have discussion on this issue? We should do it, provided we know what would be the framework within which the system is discussed. What would be the role of China in this? What will be the role of Russia? Why Kazakhstan and Ukraine and Israel should not be involved in this kind of thing? And, unless we know the framework, the agenda, and what is going to be the outcome of the conference, I think we should not get ourselves entangled in a situation, in a diplomatic posture, the outcome of which we may not be able to mould to the satisfaction of our own needs. On the other hand, our diplomats have one very strong point in their favor, and that is the domestic consensus, across party lines, on the issue of not signing NPT and not giving up India's nuclear options. This is an important asset for our diplomats.

[Nihal Singh] Muchkund, don't you think in a way we are our own worst enemy in a sense that we became so obsessed with Pakistan that we have helped the world equate India with Pakistan? It shouldn't be the case at all. I mean, we have. There is no comparison in real terms and we have our wider (?camp), we have wider responsibilites, and, of course, we face wider threats, as everbody knows. There are reasons why Pakistan should be obsessed with India. All right, let them be. But shouldn't we sort of say, well, of course, we have to tackle Pakistan up to a point and as necessary, and you know not get so [word indistinct] by everything that Pakistan is doing.

[Muchkund] Let me just try to understand [words indistinct] what the United States is in at vis-a-vis the nuclear capabilites of the two countries are concerned. They would not expect us to sign the NPT at this stage because they know that politically it is not feasible. All that they want at this stage is to cap the capability, which really means three things. One, is that non-weaponization. Secondly, that final agreement on a freeze of the production of weapons-grade fissile materials which could very well be a part of a global agreement. And three, that undertake a commitment not to test. Now, I am relating to the broader objective. Let me just develop my argument. At the second stage, perhaps, they would like us to go further and they will ask us to eliminate the stock of the fissile materials, and then wind down, that is destroy, our capability. And, they have virtually persuaded Argentina to do that. The president of South Africa has confessed that he has done precisely that. Now, I think that the broader perspective for India comes into play when we analyze the basic lacuna in this approach. And, this basic lacuna in this approach is that our concern of a threat from China cannot be taken care of unless within the context of the elimination of nuclear weapons altogether, because no amount of assurance or security guarantee can really make you feel secure when you know that the other side is possessing nuclear weapons. The only way in which that concern can be met is if we can make China and the rest of the world move towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. So, I think that, setting aside Pakistan, if we take disarmament initiatives which are broadly designed to move toward this goal—that is what seems to me the diplomatic channels.

[Nihal Singh] Are we doing so?

[Muchkund] Not in a planned way, not wholeheartedly. I mean, we are doing it in an ad hoc basis in response to pressure being put on us bilaterally by the different allies of United States and United States itself.

[Nihal Singh] Jasjit, I would like you to come into this. What about Kazakhstan, for instance, because you know, of course, they have agreed to not ultimately have nuclear weapons. But you all know making a pronouncement is one thing and actually getting rid of the weapons is totally another, as we know from Ukraine's case.

[Jasjit] Not only that. Down the line, most of the experts who were there in Almaty, they are expressing a great deal of concern because to many people in Kazakhstan the only guarantee for security of Kazakhstan is to [word indistinct] nuclear weapons. They don't really have an army, they don't have an economy, they don't have anything at the moment—the very reason why Ukraine wants to hold on to nuclear weapons for as long as it can. The point really here is that what we do about this? And, I think we have to keep coming back to this point again and again that any India-Pakistan linkage is the one that detracts from our basic national short-term and long-term interests. And that's extremely important, and I entirely agree with Muchkund that our solution really has to be related to the larger issues. It is all very well to talk in terms of nuclear restraint. Restraint vis-a-vis who? If it's only Pakistan, then two basic problems arise.

One is the basic issue of principle. Are we going to negotiate with Pakistan on a nuclear arms control agreement of any type, whether it is of stopping production of nuclear weapons or nuclear fissile material or anything else? I would say, no. For the simple reason that here is a clandestine nuclear weapon program supported directly and indirectly by the United States strategic interests and aid supplies, supported substantively by many other countries in the last 15 years. And, now comes a question—they are flaunted this time and again, perhaps for the seventh or eighth time now, that they have the components or the weapons capability and trying to produce an Indian linkage to try and reduce their own costs —political and diplomatic costs—in this regard. Now, any dialogue by India with Pakistan on nuclear arms control agreement would only legitimize a clandestine program. Now, we must seriously think whether we should be legitimizing a clandestine program or not, particularly when rules from one end to the other are flouted as de facto sixth nuclear-weapon state in the world. Even Israelis have not done the way Pakistan is going ahead and doing it. Here is a prime minister, caretaker, who also declares that they have this weapon. You know, this is one level of the problem.

The second is, I agree that this whittling down of the Indian will through this bilateral dialogue. Bilateral dialogues are useful in trying to understand each others' position and trying to work, I am not.... [pauses] Personally, I don't think that we should wait for somebody else to set the agenda. I don't think we can possibly get into the five-nation dialogue. I have maintained this view since 1991 when Nawaz Sharif proposed it that it would be totally wrong for us to get into any such dialogue in a five-nation thing without clearly knowing the agenda. In fact, the agenda was set by Pakistan, that it is to discuss a South Asian nuclear weapon-free zone. So, there is no way you can even start the dialogue or even agree to sit on the table because the aim is to disarm you vis-a-vis the other side, and we don't even know whether that can really be done or not. Nobody has asked us questions. I think we need to define our agenda which will have to be related much more to the global issues, it will have to be related to ensure that the China factor is duly, accurately taken care of.

One can understand the difficulties that the government may find itself in. This is a period when our relations with China are improving. But I think this is an unnecessary fear that it will upset the Chinese. Let the Americans talk to the Chinese if they are so concerned about this whole problem. I don't think the situation is unstable at the moment, like their talking in terms of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. I don't see the prospects of a conventional war being very much in the cards, and you really can't just pull out the nuclear weapon and drop it. That's a reaction of a mad leadership and there can be no deterrence against mad leadership and there can be no agreements which can bind irrational decision-making by governments, and I don't think the Pakistan Government is irrational at all.

[Nihal Singh] Professor Zubairi, don't you think that the American policy of being even-handed, as they call it, towards India and Pakistan is by itself against the Indian interest?

[Zubairi] Yes, certainly it is. There was a certain euphoria for a little while in India that perhaps the American policy is shifting away from Pakistan and that it would be good from the Indian point of view. But the recent changes have revealed that it is not, and, as you rightly pointed, out even-handedness implies—so far as India is concerned—the posture which is hostile to India. And, we have to relate it to other issues which are bedeviling our relations with the United States. There is the question of Kashmir, they have said that the whole of Kashmir is a disputed territory. There is intellectual property rights, there is now a [word indistinct] issue that is the supply of enriched uranium to Tarapur, because the Tarapur agreement terminates in October 1993, and that issue again becomes an important one.

I would like to make one comment on the general global situation as you mentioned earlier. I think that there is one qualitative change in the global situation so far as nuclear issue is concerned since the end of the Cold War. During the Cold War, at least rhetorically, all powers used to talk about a time when all nuclear weapons are to be eliminated. This proposal was propagandist by nature. But at least they were committed to it. Nowadays, none of the great powers is talking of elimination of nuclear weapons. In fact, now nuclear weapons are to be retained as a deterrent against proliferation.

[Nihal Singh] Well, NATO had that philosophy for a long time.

[Zubairi] Yes, now for instance take the case of China, just as you have mentioned. In 1992, eight nuclear tests were conducted in the world—six by the United States and two by China—one of which was a megaton units test. China is not involved in the arms control process at all. Even with regard to the recent test moratorium, its response had been very ambiguous on this issue. They have simply said we have conducted the smallest number of tests and so on. In other words, when you take into account the fact that we have security problems with China and China is a nuclear-weapon power, declared nuclear-weapon power with a veto in the Security Council, not involved in the arms control process at all, we have to take into account this fact so far as our own security is concerned. And, the other point I wanted to make is that in all scenarios of nuclear war—and there have been umpteen scenarios—there is only one scenario of a realistic use of nuclear weapons, and that is in the case of a country which does not have nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons can be used only against a country which does not have nuclear weapons. This has been the only form, the only situation in which it can be used. So we have to take into account all these factors, and I think American pressure will be mounted. It is being mounted at various levels—diplomatic, economic, and so on. We

should not be self-deterred. We have this (?feel), I mean, economic vulnerability. Pakistan is also economically vulnerable.

[Nihal Singh] Of course, much more.

[Zubairi] But, here you have a country which is too tied to the United States and so on but defies the United States, at least openly, if at least it is not secretly encouraged to do so. But, why should a country of the size of India be so deterred and to feel as if anything we would do would bring about too much economic and political cost?

[Nihal Singh] Muchkund, do you think that we should declare ourselves to be a nuclear-weapon power?

[Muchkund] No, I think we should rather [words indistinct]. The basic thing is that we have a threat, as I said, that the strategic situation of the subcontinent is such that a country which has a nuclear weapon, particularly placed in the position of Pakistan who feels that in conventional weapons India is superior, where the deployment of forces are such that the [words indistinct] there is every temptation to use preemptive strike. In that event you have to indulge yourself with deterrents. And that really might make for stability rather than instability.

[Nihal Singh] Well, the old Cold War superpower formula... Jasjit.

[Jasjit] But you have a cold war between India and Pakistan except we need to recognize the reality that it is a cold war. The best policy for us has been in the past and will remain in the future is to keep the nuclear weapon options open, and, as Muchkund said, to be quite clear that if the threat really emerges into more urgent major thing, then we should be in a position to take care of that, and that itself is adequate to deter such a threat.

[Nihal Singh] You mean a few screw drives away?

[Jasjit] Well, that's a.... [pauses] Because making the weapon is also closing the option. Please remember that.

[Nihal Singh] Professor Zubairi, you have the last word.

[Zubairi] Well, I would simply say that we have to remember that nuclear weapons in the long run are cheaper than conventional weapons. And most of our costs is already sunk so far as the nuclear weapons are concerned. You don't have to go into the elaborate system of deliveries, vehicles and intercontinental ballistic missiles and so on, and you don't have to resort to extended deterrence. Our posture will be limited, and so we have to take into account the fact that conventional weapons have become extremely costly and they have to be imported while nuclear weapons, by their very nature, are an indigenous enterprise.

[Nihal Singh] Well, I think we had a rather interesting discussion. As usual there are no quick fixes on this. But I think that we do need to have a more consistent and articulate policy, taking into account the fact that our security concerns are much wider than Pakistan. There is China, there is nuclear capability further to the west now, which has been independent capability. So I hope we shall bear these things in mind in future. Thank you, gentlemen.

Iran

Police Rescue Russian Consul, Shoot Gunman

LD1108081993 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 11, IRNA—An armed man who took the Russian consul in Tehran hostage Tuesday [10 August] for getting political asylum from Moscow, was seriously shot by law-enforcement forces early Wednesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi announcing this said: "The Russian consul Andrey N. Kiselyev has been secured unharmed but the hostage-taker is in critical condition."

Special units of the law-enforcement forces finally intervened at 01:30 hours local time Wednesday (21:00 hours GMT Tuesday) and targetted the armed man when efforts to end the incident peacefully failed.

The law-enforcement forces came into action upon the official request of the Russian Ambassador to Iran Sergey M. Tretyakov, Mahmoudi noted.

The ambassador, he added, had asked the Foreign Ministry to intervene when the hostage-taker not only refused to surrender but intensified his threats against the consul.

According to security sources, the hostage-taker used to be a member of the dissolved Communist "Tudeh" Party of Iran who had lived in Russia for four years.

Latest reports today indicated that the hostage-taker is still in critical condition.

Lebanon's Hizballah Chief Discusses Aftermath of Israeli Raid

NC1008141293 Paris AFP in English 1327 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 10 (AFP)—The leader of Lebanon's Hizballah guerrilla movement is in Iran to discuss the aftermath of the recent Israeli blitz on south Lebanon, the foreign ministry said Tuesday [10 August].

Hasan Nasrallah and other Hizballah members were to meet Iranian leaders and then hold a press conference on Wednesday about the situation in the south, the ministry said. It gave no more details.

The Lebanese army has begun deploying in the south following a ceasefire that ended Israeli bombardments in

the last week of July that killed 132 people and injured 500, most of them civilians, and damaged 120 villages.

State radio meanwhile reported that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had met with a delegation of "Lebanese religious figures" who discussed "developments in Lebanon."

Without specifying who the "religious figures" were, the radio said that Velayati underlined the "need for greater solidarity with Lebanon to defend it from the Zionist enemy."

"Islamic solidarity is a solid obstacle in the path of the pernicious attacks of the Zionist regime," he said.

Hizballah, or Party of God, sponsored by Iran, was the target of the Israeli onslaught which was provoked by the guerrilla group's repeated attacks on Israel and its self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Presents Report to Velayati

LD1008161093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Hasan Nasrallah, the general-secretary of the Lebanese Hizballah Movement, who heads a delegation visiting Tehran, met and conferred with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this afternoon. The secretary general of Hizballah presented a report on the latest situation in Lebanon, and then described the destruction caused by the Zionist regime's attacks. He also announced the Hizballah's plans for reconstructing the damaged areas.

Nasrallah also pointed to the Lebanese people's strong resolve to continue their resistance and resilience in the face the Zionist regime's aggressions. Moreover, he expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled policy of support for the correct stances of Islamic resistance in Lebanon.

Mr. Velayati, in turn, praised the Lebanese people's courageous steadfastness and resistance against the Zionist regime's aggression. He said the main reason for this resistance is the bond of solidarity and unity between the Lebanese people and the Hizballah and their adherence to Islamic principles and tenets. He then referred to the continuing support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the continuation of Lebanon's Islamic resistance against the invaders. Moreover, he emphasized the resolute will of our country to continue helping the Lebanese people to reconstruct the destruction brought about by the Zionists' attacks. [passage omitted]

Meets With Nateq-Nuri

LD1008170193 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Tuesday [10 August] urged the Lebanese people to maintain their Islamic resistance to the Zionist regime.

Nateq-Nuri told the visiting secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah Movement, Hasan Nasrallah, that the Zionist regime's aggression on southern Lebanon served to bring about unity in Lebanon. He urged all Lebanese groups to maintain such unity.

He also lauded the Syrian and Lebanese Governments for their "positive" stance in support of the Islamic resistance and against the Zionist regime's aggression.

Underlining the need to reconstruct Lebanon, the Majlis speaker said the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i has ordered the opening of a bank account to raise fund for this purpose.

He expressed hope that all war damaged areas in Lebanon would soon be rebuilt by the Lebanese people in conjunction with their Iranian brethren.

Nasrallah who is here along with some prominent members of the movement to exchange views on the latest developments in Lebanon, said the Zionist regime's failure to achieve its military goals has caused many Lebanese groups and personalities to set aside their differences.

He said the Hizballah Movement was not considered as a part of local equation but rather it carried weight across the region.

Denies Pledge To End Rocket Attacks

LD1008174493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] The secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon today stressed: The position of Hizballah, as ever, involves repelling the acts of aggression of the Zionist regime.

Our correspondent has a report to which we draw your attention.

[Begin recording by unidentified correspondent] In an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit today, while describing the aims of his trip to Iran, Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of Hizballah of Lebanon said: I have come to Iran to thank the esteemed leader and other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their efforts.

Praising Iran for its constructive role in supporting the oppressed people of Lebanon, he called for more participation by Iran and other world Muslims in the reconstruction of southern Lebanon.

While describing the so-called Arab-Israeli peace talks as ineffectual, he said: That regime does not seek peace, and making any concessions to that regime by Arab governments would evoke a strong reaction from Muslim nations.

In reply to a question as to whether Hizballah has made any commitments to end the missile attacks on Israel, Hasan Nasrallah said: Hizballah has not made any commitments to anybody in that respect. Our position is as before. He said: Hizballah believes it has an absolute right to fight the acts of aggression of the Zionist regime and will use any means to repel that regime's acts of aggression.

Referring to the fact that Hizballah's policy does not involve firing missiles at Israel, he said: Hizballah reserves the right to use any means it deems fit to fight the acts of aggression of the Zionist regime.

Letter of Understanding Signed With Afghanistan

LD1108083793 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 11, (IRNA)—A letter of understanding for mutual cooperation was signed between the city of Birjand in this northeastern Iranian province and Farah province in Afghanistan Tuesday.

Speaking at the end of his five-day visit to Farah province, Governor of Birjand Ali Sarvati said that the agreement focused on the establishment of security in that part of the borderline which was jointly shared by the two provinces.

Provision of foodstuff, fuel and other requirements of the people and offices in Farah province as well as economic issues concerning the joint border market were among other subjects included in the agreement.

He noted that a delegation from Farah province will visit Birjand in near future to discuss matters of mutual interest and follow up issues on which agreement had already been reached.

End To 'Discrimination' in Nuclear Technology Urged

NC1108101193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Commentary from the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Iranian representative to the annual disarmament conference in Geneva referred to the current situation on disarmament and called for the elimination of the present approach of discrimination in the peaceful utilization of nuclear, biological, and chemical technology. He said the presence of such prejudices served to deter developing countries from renewing the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and from signing the chemical and microbiological conventions.

In view of the fact that there is cooperation among countries on the issue of disarmament, discriminatory and preferential treatment that inspire mistrust among countries are considered an impediment to the disarmament program.

The stress laid by the Islamic Republic of Iran's envoy in Geneva to remove such discrimination is in fact a proposal for eliminating suspicion and mistrust among countries with regard to their commitments to the disarmament program. During the Cold War era, with the presence of two poles of power—with their distinctive directions and ideology—attainment of reciprocal trust for forging ahead with the disarmament program was difficult; the end to the Cold War was considered a source of optimism in this regard.

When certain measures were taken in the last days of the end of the Cold War and the start of a new historical era toward international disarmament, such optimism was further boosted. However, time has proven that the issue cannot be viewed in such a simplistic and optimistic manner. The previous fronts of the Cold War era have been disbanded and new fronts have emerged in the disarmament programs. One is the group comprised of the powerful industrial countries and the other is the group of developing countries.

At first glance, it appears that the two groups see that their interests lie in disarmament and they stress international programs in this regard. However, the particular characteristics of each of these two blocs and their respective interests make it difficult for them to adopt a coordinated policy. The group of powerful industrial countries—which have the technology and adequate means to manufacture weapons, and in general are the exporters of weapons to other countries—do not take the interests of developing countries into account sufficiently when formulating programs, which allows them to control the countries of the world.

From this vantage point, the developing countries do not view their proposed programs as a means of ensuring peace and security. Rather, they consider them a limitation to the scope of their national activities and consider them an obstacle in their own development program.

Disarmament talks are currently in progress in the three fields of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons as well as in the field of conventional weapons. On the one hand these talks are on nuclear disarmament among the industrial countries themselves, while on other hand they are between the industrial countries and the developing countries with nuclear capability. Even though in such talks the industrial countries strive to convey the impression that they will forge ahead on this issue on the basis of mutual cooperation, in their talks with the Third World countries with nuclear arms, the issue of competition is intolerable for them.

In view of the remarkable nuclear capability of the greater powers, developing countries consider them a threat to themselves, especially since no appropriate mechanism has been implemented—based on a nonutilization or in the event of a threat to use nuclear weapons

against them—for ensuring their own security from the countries that possess nuclear capability.

In addition, a discriminatory attitude by the powerful countries against the developing countries with nuclear capability serves to boost their mistrust regarding their own security.

Regarding chemical, biological, and conventional weapons, there is a general tendency to call for their elimination and limitation. However, the solution proposed to this issue has only served to inspire suspicion among the developing countries. Perhaps the exchange of military information as far as just the sale, purchase, and the presence of such weapons is concerned may create conditions for its successful implementation.

Even though this mode is also questionable with regard to an equitable and unprejudiced implementation among the powerful and weaker countries alike, when it involves controlling technology that can be converted, developing countries view the matter with suspicion. These countries believe that this control will present innumerable difficulties for their development programs and will deprive them of peaceful utilization in various fields; these are the topics being discussed in the disarmament talks.

In any case, what can help these talks forge ahead eventually and deliver mankind from various threats is if the countries of the world, especially the powerful countries, participate in such decisionmaking by providing political undertakings on this issue, regardless of individual or short-term benefits. They should implement these programs without any discrimination or taking a partial stance.

Majles Deputies Discuss Interior Minister

LD1108100993

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program in Persian at 0350 GMT on 11 August began live coverage of the Majles open session proceedings. After recitation of Koranic verses for six minutes, the names of the pre-agenda speakers were announced as:

- Qasem Ramezanpour-Nargesi, deputy from Sowme'esara;
- 'Abbas Tehrani-Fard, deputy from Tehran;
- Seyyed Ahmad Rasuli-Nezhad, deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh.

The above-named deputies were allocated 10 minutes each to raise their points. After paying tribute to Khomeyni and Khamene'i, the speakers mainly enumerated the requirements of their constituencies and asked their colleagues to be sincere when voting for President Rafsanjani's newly proposed cabinet next week.

Regarding the performance of the former Interior Minister 'Abdullah Nuri, Ramezanpour-Nargesi said: "Unfortunately, during the past few days there were hot debates and discussions on the fate of some ministries, including the Interior Ministry, which ultimately led to proposing that Mr. Besharati take charge of this highly important and essential ministry. It is being said that during the past eight years the Interior Ministry has not followed the path of the revolution. I believe such remarks are unjustified and unfair. What better proof for the existence of the sun than sunshine? The fact that we are serving in this Majles as deputies of the fourth term of the parliament, proves that the Interior minister succeeded in holding fair and sound elections in accordance with instructions of the esteemed leader."

Rasuli-Nezhad spoke against the former interior minister saying, "During the same fourth term of the Majles we refrained from impeachment of the interior minister, in accordance with instructions of the leader and for the sake of expediency. However, he ignored the wishes of the absolute majority of the deputies and did whatever he desired...." At this point he was interrupted by the Majles speaker because his allocated time was over.

Afterwards, the Majles entered debate on lowering the pension age for women who hold desk jobs at the Defense Ministry. This will bring parity between men and women who perform similar tasks. The next issue of debate was the safety aspect of laying underground gas pipelines next to electric power cables. The session ended at 0644 GMT. The house will begin a debate on the vote of confidence for Rafsanjani's proposed new cabinet on 15 August at 0330 GMT.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Briefs Seminar on Teaching Islam

LD1008140293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Islam is a religion based on reason, freedom of thought, compassion, and kindness. The enemies of Islam's world try in vain to distort the true face of Islam. This was said by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning at the inauguration ceremony of the fifth national seminar of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cultural attaches abroad. The president said he considers one of the most important duties of relevant officials to be familiarizing the world with the true face and nonsuperfluous nature of Islam.

At the meeting, the head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution, in the course of his remarks, referred to the point that the elements of progress and advance are inherent in Islam and efforts should be made to eliminate the obstacles standing in the way of this progress. He said: The fundamental mission of the missionaries and cultural attaches is to introduce the pure and progressive teachings of Islamic culture, which are closely linked to human nature itself. If this happens, then the hearts and minds of many will be drawn toward Islamic teachings.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered that the way Islam's great prophet and his eminent companions and the

immaculate imams—God's mercy be upon them—confronted pagans and the ignorant, is the best model for the Islamic Republic's cultural attaches. He said: This logic that exists in Islam that you should hear everything that is being said and then choose what is best, demonstrates the lofty and confident attitude of Islam toward freedom of speech and dialogue, in its encounter with opposing ideas.

The president pointed out that the enemies, in spite of understanding the clear and convincing logic of Islam, resort to extensive propaganda in a bid to dent the face of Islam by presenting it as aggressive, illogical and coercive. He said: The grudges of the materialistic and exploitative culture of the enemies has eclipsed their pretentious claims to freedom and freedom of expression, and they have not been able to separate freedom of thought and expression from materialistic and colonialist issues. This itself has frustrated their struggle against Islam.

The president said that attributing unfounded matters to Islam and the existence of backward prejudices and ossified ideas are the worst injustice directed against Islam. He said: His holiness, the imam—God's mercy be upon him—eliminated many of these superfluous attributes and backward ideas with characteristic courage. Yet the world of Islam is still burdened with mistaken thoughts and ideas, and we hope that the senior ulema and Islamic scholars will endeavor more than before to put forward the true face of Islam, to the world.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to benefit from the visual arts and planning and provision for the appropriate use of modern devices and facilities in introducting the holy precepts of Islam to the world. He said: Utilising contemporary artistic methods and the mass-media and sending films and messages to all corner of the world and also, benefiting from correct and scientific techniques of psychology and sociology, is one of the most important duties of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. He added: More efforts should be made to introduce and spread the progressive and non-superfluous teachings of Islam by adopting methods and approaches that encourage exchanges of ideas and thoughts. The president considered that the ancient civilization; culture and past national achievements; the Persian language and the literary-artistic heritage of our country were valuable and rich. He said: Islamic and national achievements are complementary. Benefiting from traditional Iranian art and emphasizing Islamic achievements is among the best and most expressive means of influencing the cultural and artistic world of other societies. Artists, scholars, intellectuals and all cultural bodies of the country should endeavor along this path. [passage omitted]

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1338 GMT on 10 August, in a Tehran-datelined item, likewise reports: President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday urged Iranian cultural envoys abroad to try to introduce the true face of Islam to the world. Speaking at the 5th annual meeting of Iran's cultural envoys abroad, the president told them "our mission is to introduce the pure and progressive features of Islamic culture." Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani also cautioned the audience against attempts by the enemies trying to tarnish Islam by branding it as illogical and violent.

["He expressed hope that prominent Muslim 'ulema and scholars will step up their efforts in reflecting the true feature of Islam to the peoples of the world. The president recommended that modern broadcasting facilities, mass media and psychological and sociological techniques be employed for getting the message of Islam across. It is a duty of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to make the necessary arrangements and choose suitable methods for exchange of views with an aim of disseminating Islam all over the world, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

["Earlier in the meeting, minister of culture and Islamic guidance briefed the president on activities of his ministry abroad.]

MKO Source Says Regime Funding Terrorism Abroad

NC1108110893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (MENA)—Since the beginning of this year Iran has allocated $500 million to fund terrorist operations against its opponents abroad. A responsible source in the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization [MKO], based in Iraq, told a MENA correspondent in Baghdad that a meeting was held in Tehran in February in which it was decided to assassinate or kidnap the opponents of the Iranian regime living in neighboring countries, Europe, and the United States. He noted that the forces struggling for power in Iran agree on one course—interference in the domestic affairs of neighboring countries to export terrorism and defy their ruling regimes.

Pakistan

'Cordial' Resolution of F-16 Issue Anticipated

BK1008155693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan and the United States will hold further talks for a just and cordial settlement of the F-16 aircraft issue. An official spokesman said in Islamabad today that initial technical-level talks between the two countries were held last week. Describing certain press reports as mere speculation, the spokesman denied that these aircraft will be sold to any third country. He said the talks are at a technical level, and it does not mean that the issue can be resolved some other way.

On the recent accords signed with Japan for its yen credit to Pakistan, the spokesman said they do not have any direct link with the issue of nuclear nonproliferation. The spokesman said, however, that Japan has a positive view of Pakistan's policy on nuclear nonproliferation.

Saudi Intercession Urged

BK1108062393 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Aug 93 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 9—The Islamic United Council [IUC], at a meeting of its national executive body here on Monday, appealed to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and its senior members, such as Indonesia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, to exert their influence upon the United States so that it could adopt an even-handed policy with regard to the provision and sale of arms to Pakistan.

Rashid Ahmed Chughtai, Secretary-General of the IUC, particularly drew the attention of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan's justified approach towards the issue of procurement of F-16s, in the context of its national defence as well as the maintenance of balance of power in the region, which demanded a fair and sympathetic appraisal from the viewpoint of the Ummah and its future.

Mr Chugtai said: "Right from Pakistan's inception, our people and government have been on cordial and friendly terms with Washington and there has never been a real clash of interest in political and economic domains between the two countries."

He urged Saudi Arabia to play a positive role in bringing about an understanding between Pakistan and the US regarding the delivery of 71 F-16s, for which Pakistan had already paid a heavy amount. Since the balance of power in the region was changing at a rapid pace and India was acquiring all sorts of missile and avionics technology, Pakistan's friends should not lag behind in pleading for a just cause that might affect the future course of developments, he added.

Islamic Party Leader on U.S. 'Conspiracy' Against Nation

BK0708124993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Aug 93 p 5

[Text] Lahore, Aug 6—Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Amir Jamaat-i-Islami [JI], disclosed that changes in the administrative set-up in the country were part of an American conspiracy in which Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto were all trapped. The purpose of this conspiracy was to destabilise Pakistan, he added.

Addressing a reception organised in his honour by Pakistan Islamic Front [PIF] in a local hotel, he said if PPP [Pakistan People's Party] or PML [Pakistan Muslim League] came into power in the next elections and the other sat in the opposition then the newly elected Assembly would not survive for more than six months as new and more serious problems would erupt. America wants to see Pakistan destabilised and its constitution

abrogated because every one knows that in the atmosphere of existing contradiction on regional, provincial, linguistic and other prejudices it would not be possible to form a new constitution.

He also expressed fear that this contradiction which emerged between Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto would spill over the ranks of the armed forces.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said only solution to this crisis was that Pakistan Islamic Front should be provided a chance of alternate national leadership. The situation, he said was ripe and through a forceful campaign PIF can achieve its aim. The PIF political platform would be free from the influence of American lobby, feudals and capitalists, he promised.

The Amir Jamaat-i-Islami said his party policies were fact God-guided, and when "We start a new policy even our close associates fail to appreciate it." He disclosed that his first meeting with Afghans took place in 1970, and it was decided to resist the move of Wali Khan for the division of NWFP [North West Frontier Province] on linguistic basis. For this purpose, in Kabul a ministry for Pakhtoonistan was working. This contact developed further and he with the help of Afghan mojahedin defeated a superpower, he said. "We had been demanding return of Islamic centres of Central Asian States to Muslims, but nobody took it serious and now it had turned into a reality," he added.

He said similarly no one was prepared to believe that Kashmiris could raise arms for the sake of their freedom. Going into details he said on the beginning the Kashmir organisations requested that they would sent their 30 young men every month for training in Afghanistan. But next month this number rose to 200 and then it went on increasing every month beyond their expectations.

He disclosed that when the PPP government came into power it tried to stop this arrangement but they did not succeed. Now the freedom struggle has spread all over held Kashmir, and even the Indian leaders were divided on this point that Kashmir could remain part of India. He said in the wake of this success a freedom movement, a new trap of third option had been forwarded which was not acceptable.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad described the nuclear programme of Pakistan as a matter of life and death for nation. He said the nation had spent billions of ruppees on this programme and "we could not roll it back." He said "We want atomic bomb but we do not intend to use this bomb against India but we want it as a deterrent.

Referring to election politics, JI Amir said by putting PIF candidates against PML (N) [Nawaz] candidates, there was no chance that PPP candidates would be benefited.

He strongly criticised economic policics of Nawaz Sharif government and said they all had proved utter failure.

On a question of election alliance or adjustment with the PPP he said for negotiations doors for all the parties were open. "We can make adjustment even with the PPP, but no election alliance. We are prepared for election alliance with religious parties, and we had made them an offer of unconditional election cooperation but we did not receive any positive response from their side."

He said JI wants elections must be held on schedule. Responding to another question he said JI would release first list of its candidates within a week and the next list would be released after another week's time.

Foreign Office Condemns Indian 'Atrocities' in Kashmir

BK1008112393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan has condemned the atrocities committed by Indian troops against the people of occupied Kashmir, and has expressed sympathy and support on behalf of the people of Pakistan. A Foreign Office spokesman referred to the killing of a boy and his parents in Srinagar, which caused massive protest demonstrations in the entire occupied valley and expressions of sorrow and anguish by the people. He said attempts were made to suppress these protests with the use of brutal force, and it is feared that Kashmir may experience an increase in violence. Expressing strong concern over the continuing atrocities in the occupied territory, the spokesman urged the international community to take immediate steps to stop the massive violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He said it is essential to put an end to the human rights violations in order to reduce tension and to bring peace and stability to the region. He said the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions and the aspirations of the people of Kashmir.